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THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL: 25 YEARS LATER



MARKEUS SCHREIBER/AP

People gather around an original segment of the Berlin Wall marking the former border at Potsdamer Platz on Sept. 25 in Berlin. On Sunday, Germany celebrates the 25th anniversary of the fall of the wall.

The Wall is history, but barriers to peace remain

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

At a border camp in the German town of Hof, a stunned Maj. Mark Hertling watched as East met West and the war he spent his young career preparing for was disappearing before his eyes.

"We were there the night the Trabants started coming across the border and a lot of



people were confused about what to do," recalled Hertling, who in November 1989 was an officer with the 1st Armored Division. "I was like 'holy crap, this is a new age.'"

Days later, Hertling was back at his home station in Ansbach, Germany, where he met up with a buddy for beers at a local festival. They reflected on the ramifications of the Berlin Wall's fall.

SEE HISTORY ON PAGE 19

Obama says he'll work with Congress on war powers

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Wednesday he would ask Congress for specific powers to fight Islamic State militants, opening the door to a potentially lengthy and contentious debate over the nature and extent of American engagement in Iraq and Syria.

Obama's announcement, during a news

conference the day after his party was thrashed by Republicans in elections, was not wholly unexpected. But it represented a significant shift from his earlier position that while he would welcome congressional backing, he had legal authority to take military action under existing statutes.

Republicans took the Senate, and will soon run both houses of Congress.

When Obama approved U.S. airstrikes in late September against extremists who

have captured territory across Syria and Iraq, he used legal grounds of congressional authorizations that President George W. Bush relied on more than a decade ago. The White House said then that under the 1973 War Powers Act, the Bush-era congressional authorizations for the war on al-Qaida and the Iraq invasion gave Obama authority to act without new approval.

SEE OBAMA ON PAGE 9

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Mom, we got down on the ground and then the mortar landed next to me. I passed out. It hurt so bad. Then I realized that I don't want to die and I came around."

— Oksana Safonova, relating what her son Kirill, 11, told her about how he survived the shelling of a high school in Donetsk, Ukraine, Wednesday that killed two teens.

See story on Page 14

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2. USS McCampbell chief dies while on leave in Thailand
3. Soldier in Korea gets helmet that saved his life in Afghanistan
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5. Army's last active-duty Vietnam-era draftee retires

COMING SOON

Books

Herbie Hancock



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WAR/MILITARY

New Army regs include term 'Negro'

Stars and Stripes

Army regulations published in October allow a black or African-American servicemember to be categorized with the term "Negro" or "Haitian."

The passage, found in the "Army Command Policy," known as regulation AR 600-20, is in a section detailing the Army's equal opportunity program.

The Army said it was uncertain when the term was added to the regulations, according to CNN, which first reported its inclusion.

Negro was commonly used to refer to African-Americans through the 1960s until it fell out of favor in the wake of the civil

An Army spokesman told CNN that the use of the word comes from an outdated section that 'will be updated shortly.'

rights movement of the era.

The U.S. Census Bureau announced last year that it would no longer use the term Negro on its forms as of 2014. The term had been in continuous use since the Census of 1900.

The Department of Defense collects extensive demographic data on the makeup of the military force for issues such as equal opportunity and ensuring dis-

crimination does not take place.

CNN reported that an Army official familiar with the document said it is possible the word was added so that when soldiers self-report on forms, they would have an opportunity to identify themselves as Negro, if they so chose.

A military officer specializing in personnel issues for the Defense Department, however, called that "the dumbest thing I

have ever heard," noting the Pentagon does not use the word in any of its extensive collection of demographic data, CNN reported.

Lt. Col. S. Justin Platt, an Army spokesman, told CNN that the use of the word comes from an outdated section.

"The racial definitions in AR600-20 para. 6-2 are outdated, currently under review, and will be updated shortly," he said. "The Army takes pride in sustaining a culture where all personnel are treated with dignity and respect and not discriminated against based on race, color, religion, gender and national origin."

US sends long-held Gitmo prisoner to Kuwait

By BEN FOX

The Associated Press

MIAMI — One of the longest-held prisoners at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay was sent home to Kuwait on Wednesday, the first release based on the determination of a review panel that has been re-evaluating some men previously classified as too dangerous to release.

Fawzi al-Odah had been told his release was imminent but didn't know the date until shortly before he boarded the flight back to his country from the base in southeast Cuba, his lawyer, Eric Lewis, said.

Al-Odah, 37, had been the focus of an arduous battle to secure his release that had the support of his government. Lewis, who spoke to him about a week before the departure, said the prisoner just wanted to get on with life.

"There's no bitterness, there's no anger," Lewis said. "There's just excitement and joy that he will be going home."

Al-Odah faces a minimum of one year at a militant-rehabilitation center on the grounds of a Kuwaiti prison under the transfer agreement. Lewis said that after six months al-Odah will be eligible to leave for part of the day to work or see family.

Al-Odah arrived back in Kuwait early Thursday, said Kuwaiti political science professor and human rights activist Ghanim al-Najjar, who closely follows the issue of Kuwaiti detainees at Guantanamo.

His transfer brings the detention center population to 148 and is the first since May, when President Barack Obama angered Congress by trading five Taliban prisoners for captive Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl without notifying lawmakers.

The release of al-Odah was criticized by U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a chief proponent of keeping the prison open. The New Hampshire Republican called it "yet another dangerous example of the Obama administration's misguided motivation to empty and then close Guantanamo rather than protect the national security interests of the United States."

Al-Odah had been at Guantanamo since February 2002, and was one of the first prisoners brought to the base on suspicion of links to al-Qaida or the Taliban. The Obama administration has pledged to keep trying to close the facility, which opened in January 2002, and additional releases are expected in the coming months, so al-Odah's record



Al-Odah

Fawzi al-Odah had been at Gitmo since February 2002.

as the longest-held detainee to be released isn't likely to stand long.

His father, Khalid al-Odah, said in several interviews with The Associated Press over the years that his son was only a teacher in Afghanistan who had been wrongly turned over to the U.S. authorities in exchange for a bounty.

"Sometimes my wife calls my other son Fawzi. Other times I wake up in the middle of the night and find her sleeping in Fawzi's room," the father said in a 2005 interview. "It's an unbearable sadness most of the time."

The Kuwaiti government hired high-profile lawyers and lobbyists to push for the release of a dozen of its citizens at Guantanamo, an effort set back when one carried out a suicide bomb attack in Iraq in April 2008.

An Obama administration task

force charged with evaluating all the prisoners at Guantanamo placed al-Odah and another Kuwaiti among a group slated for indefinite "law of war detention." The men in this group can't be prosecuted, typically because there is not enough evidence, but the government considers them too dangerous to release.

The administration also set up a Periodic Review Board that has been slowly re-evaluating the prisoners with parole-style hearings to determine if some can be released as part of an overall effort to eventually close the detention center.

In July, the board determined that al-Odah had most likely undergone terrorist training in Afghanistan and may have fought alongside al-Qaida or the Taliban. The board, however, decided he had only a low level of training, did not have a leadership position in either group and could be released under certain conditions. The board has cleared a handful of other detainees but they have not yet been released.

The board determined that Fawzi al-Kandari, the last remaining Kuwaiti at Guantanamo, should still be held. His military lawyer, Air Force Lt. Col. Barry Wingard, said Wednesday that he saw no immediate prospects for the release of his client.

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WAR/MILITARY



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Ryan Frye shows the helmet that saved his life to fellow soldiers in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Frye's helmet was struck during a 2012 attack in Afghanistan.

Helmet given back to 'lucky' soldier whose life it saved

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The hit-and-run attack in an Afghan town left Staff Sgt. Ryan Frye with a concussion, a scratch on the left side of his head and a helmet so dented he couldn't fit his hand inside it when he finally realized he'd been hit.

Inexplicably, he was alive.

"The helmet wasn't supposed to stop the round," the combat engineer said. "I think I was just lucky."

After the attack, Frye reluctantly handed over his helmet to the military for evaluation and was told he'd get it back in six to eight months. The months stretched into years, and well into Frye's next deployment, to South Korea, where he was stationed near the Demilitarized Zone with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Last week, more than 2½ years after the attack that took a fellow soldier's life, Frye, 25, was given back his helmet, its paint still chipped from the bullet, during a ceremony at Camp Hovey, courtesy of Program Executive Officer Solider.

The group develops military equipment and studies battle-damaged gear, collecting more than 25,000 items since 2007, with an eye toward developing better protection. When possible, PEO Soldier returns items to troops as souvenirs.

"When I came to Korea, I was like, 'Yeah, I'm not going to get it back,'" Frye said. "Getting it back was great."

Frye was taking part in a dismount operation on April 6, 2012, in Ghanzi province, along with his squad leader and their gunner, Spc. Antonio Burnside. They were about halfway through the town of Mushaki when they stopped briefly behind a wall so Burnside could rest.

When they started moving again, they were assaulted by four Afghans as they crossed an open field. Their squad leader made it to safety, but Frye and Burnside were exposed.

Burnside, who was just 70 meters away from the enemy, was hit. With the squad leader providing supporting fire, Frye kept shooting.

Suddenly, he was dazed — a brief numbness followed by a deafening silence for about 30 seconds. When his hearing started to return, he could hear his squad leader radioing for help.

The attack was quick, maybe two minutes from start to finish, but it felt like an eternity. He thought about his wife and their unborn baby, and Burnside's family — three children and one on the way.

As it turned out, Frye had been hit on the left side



The helmet that saved Frye's life when he was struck during a 2012 attack in Afghanistan was given back to him after it was inspected by Army researchers.

of his head. There was blood, but when he tried to reach inside his helmet, he couldn't because the Kevlar had been pushed in so far.

Though the only visible wound was a scratch, Frye was dazed for hours. He believes he was hit by a 7.62 mm round from an AK-47. Kevlar helmets are designed to stop only the sort of 9 mm rounds typically fired by handguns and fragmentation from explosions.

"It looked like it went in, wrapped a little bit toward the back and popped out," he said of the helmet.

For now, the helmet, mounted on a stand, is packed for shipment to his next assignment in Vicenza, Italy. He hopes someday to display it in his office.

Frye said the best part of getting the equipment back is getting a chance to tell others about Burnside, who died from his injuries and never got to see his fourth child, who was named in his honor.

"It's not about receiving a helmet," he said. "He can't be here and I want people to remember what he did for his country. I try to have everybody I talk to remember that it's all about him."

Frye's daughter also was born after the shooting. "Right when I got released from the hospital, they told me I was a father," he said, adding that he wants her to eventually have the helmet.

"It was just really special to me. I want to pass it down to my family, the next generation. It gives them the sense that there's a lot of fighting in the world, and you've got to keep going, and that I'm doing my part."

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

NATO chief hails 'new chapter' in Afghanistan

By CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, during an unannounced visit to Afghanistan on Thursday, promised continued alliance support after foreign combat troops leave the country by year's end.

"NATO and our partners have stood with Afghanistan for more than a decade," Stoltenberg said during a joint news conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. "Next year, we will open a new chapter. The future of Afghanistan will be in Afghan hands. But our support will continue."

After the NATO-led combat mission ends this year, about 12,000 foreign troops — 9,800 of them American — will remain primarily to advise and assist Afghan security forces.

Ghani praised the alliance's efforts, noting that NATO troops have "stood shoulder to shoulder" with Afghan National Security Forces during the bloodiest days of the 13-year war. While he said he was confident Afghan forces will be able to secure the country after 2014, Ghani noted that effort would depend on continued financial backing from Washington and NATO.

NATO has committed to fund Afghanistan's \$350,000 security forces at \$4.1 billion annually. At a NATO summit in Wales in September, alliance leaders committed to continue funding through 2017.

Afghanistan's new president was supposed to attend that summit, but because election results were still in dispute the country was represented by the defense minister. Stoltenberg invited Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah — chief executive in the new unity government and Ghani's rival in the protracted election — to at-

tend a NATO ministerial meeting on Dec. 2.

Stoltenberg said NATO wanted to develop its "long-term partnership with Afghanistan."

"At the same time, we count on our Afghan partners to play their part."

As the U.S. and its allies continue to withdraw combat forces, there are concerns that the Afghan forces are not ready to take over full responsibility for the country's security, especially given the high casualty tolls they have suffered this year in fighting Taliban insurgents.

In an interview with Foreign Policy magazine earlier this week, Gen. John Campbell, the top U.S. officer in Afghanistan, said he was reviewing whether Afghan forces were ready and whether he should recommend through his chain of command that additional NATO forces stay longer.

The Pentagon remains focused on the posture of troop numbers and the deployment schedule laid out by the White House, International Security Assistance Force-Joint Command chief Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson said Wednesday.

Anderson declined to comment during a video briefing from Kabul for Pentagon reporters on whether Campbell was seriously considering a U.S. postwar force above the 9,800 specified by the White House and Pentagon.

"The 9,800 number is the number, and that's the number that we're moving towards on Dec. 31st," Anderson said. "And anything beyond that number is not in my ballpark."

He said any analysis being done by Campbell's staff regarding the postwar plan is "a logical, natural thing that we all do, based on the environment" in Afghanistan.

munoz.carlo@stripes.com

Afghanistan bank head says scandal is over

KABUL, Afghanistan — The governor of Afghanistan's central bank said Wednesday the scandal that saw almost \$1 billion embezzled from the Kabul Bank by senior shareholders has been "resolved" after more than \$300 million has been recovered.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Norullah Delawari said another \$500 million to \$600 million worth of assets has been identified and now is being pursued through the courts or via requests to other countries such as the United States.

"It's not a puzzle anymore," Delawari said. "What has been done is done. We are responsible, the receiver is responsible and what has not been done has been referred to the court, and it is up to the court to decide."

The Kabul Bank collapsed in 2010 and was placed in receivership after major shareholders, including relatives of senior politicians such as former President Hamid Karzai, were accused of using it to fund lavish lifestyles.

The scandal shook international confidence in Afghanistan's financial sector and its ability to oversee its banking industry.

From The Associated Press

VETERANS

Chief: VA can't fire during investigations

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The secretary of Veterans Affairs fired another shot in the battle over the continued employment of senior officials at the center of a national scandal, saying he cannot dismiss them while criminal investigations are ongoing.

That contradicts what a Justice Department official told congressional committee investigators, as first reported by Stars and Stripes. That official said the Department of Justice "takes no position" on such employment matters.

But when questioned Thursday at a reporter's roundtable, Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald said his hands are tied.

"We need to wait for the FBI to finish their investigations before we can act," he said.

The Department of Justice did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The VA has been embroiled in scandal since whistleblowers reported the existence of secret wait lists and records manipulation at a Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care system. Subsequent investigation revealed similar problems nationwide and cost former VA Secretary Eric Shin-

seki his job.

The VA has been under intensifying scrutiny for continuing to pay senior leaders who have been linked to the scandal. In particular, the Phoenix system's director, Sharon Helman, and her continued employment have come in for heavy criticism. A report by the VA Inspector General's office accused her of presiding over an office that falsified documents and the creation of secret wait lists to make it appear patient wait times were shorter than they were and recommended she be fired.

She remains on paid leave, collecting her \$170,000 salary.

Several other VA officials implicated in wrongdoing have been able to retire before they were fired, meaning they kept benefits they otherwise may have lost. In those cases, McDonald said his hands are tied by the law.

"The law says you can not claw back retirement earned over a career unless a person commits treason or a treasonous-like activity," he said.

Critics are also saying the VA has missed a deadline for issuing "choice cards" that would allow some veterans to be covered by their benefits for care outside the VA system.

"It's tragic that not only did the depart-



MICHAEL BONFIGLI, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald speaks at a media breakfast Thursday in Washington.

ment fail to meet the deadline, but it then chose to paper-over the fact by releasing a letter from Secretary McDonald claiming they are in the process of rolling out the choice card while providing few concrete specifics," Concerned Veterans of America CEO Pete Hegseth said in a released statement.

The law states that "the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, issue to each veteran an described" in the bill. Nov. 5 marked 90 days after the enactment of the law.

On Thursday, McDonald said the VA is working to roll out the cards responsibly

so that veterans are clear about whether they are eligible and denied that they had missed a deadline. The cards are to be sent out in three phases and all are to be mailed out by January, according to a Wednesday blog post by McDonald. The VA has begun mailing cards to the first group, veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.

"The law didn't specify specifically," he said, "which cards would go out on which day or to which addresses."

druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

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MILITARY

Rotational BCT set to replace 2ID in S. Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND JON HARPER

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A decades-old 2nd Infantry Division unit stationed near the tense South-North Korea border will deactivate and be replaced by a U.S.-based rotational brigade combat team, according to the Pentagon.

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team will be deactivated in June 2015 and immediately replaced by approximately 4,600 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

Troops are typically stationed in South Korea on one- or two-year tours, leading to frequent turnover within units.

The deactivation and switch to nine-month rotational deployments is part of a U.S. Army rotational plan that calls for similarly sized and capable units from the United States to train and deploy

together.

"There's no loss in capability," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters. "Some would argue that the capability might even be slightly higher because it's a trained unit that arrives there in Korea prepared to act."

"We believe that any loss to continuity with familiarity to the terrain will be made up by a single cohesive unit that is familiar with working with each other."

One commander recently told Stars and Stripes that the use of rotational deployments led to greater stability during his unit's time in Korea.

"It allowed us to reach a level of proficiency and maintain it by not changing out our people," said Lt. Col. Arthur Sellers, commander of the Fort Hood-based 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, which left South Korea in October after a nine-month tour.

The battalion was replaced by the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat

Team, also out of Fort Hood.

The 1st Armored Brigade, nicknamed "the Iron Brigade", has been headquartered in South Korea since 1965. The 1ABCT has been awarded South Korea's Presidential Unit Citation three times for its contributions to South Korea's national security and defense.

"The Iron Brigade has played an integral role in the defense of the Korean Peninsula," Warren said. "It trained and worked alongside its South Korean partners to deter aggression."

The deactivation plan was conceived last year.

Warren said it does not portend a reduction in the overall U.S. military presence in Korea. There are 28,500 U.S. troops based there.

After the unit is deactivated, soldiers who were part of the unit will move on to other assignments throughout the Army, Warren said.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com
harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

Marine standoff protest aired

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Local community leaders met with Marine officials Wednesday to protest the handling of an Oct. 30 incident in which a Marine barricaded himself in his on-base home with a firearm, leading to a standoff with military police, officials said.

Officials say they were not informed about the Camp Lester incident until after it was over, according to a spokesman for Chutan Mayor Masaharu Noguni.

Noguni and a delegate from the Chutan town assembly filed the formal protest with Marine Corps headquarters on Camp Foster following a unanimous vote by the assembly.

"Should the rifle have been fired, it would have been a grave life-threatening matter to the neighboring community," the resolution said. "No one was informed outside the military base during the time the incident was ongoing, exposing local residents to a life-threatening situation, which is nothing but disregard of human life and the military's nature to cover up."

The Marine, whose name has not been released, was talked out peacefully, neighbors and officials said. No one was injured.

Neighbors told Stars and

Stripes about the weapon and said they had been evacuated early in the day. Marine officials would not comment on how the Marine got the rifle, citing an ongoing investigation.

Noguni's chief secretary, Morimasa Sakumoto, said the house where the incident took place can be seen from the town office porch, which is adjacent to the base's north end.

"Should the rifle have been fired, this building is within the firing range," Sakumoto said.

According to Sakumoto, Marine officials said although the suspect had a rifle there was no danger of him firing as he was contained in the bathroom and his mental condition was calm and stable.

During the incident, Marine officials put out several statements to local media and announcements to local media for base residents but did not mention a weapon was involved.

Camp Lester is a well-populated family housing area and home to Camp Lester middle school, which observed normal school hours that day.

Marine officials said at the time that there was no danger to the local community because the home, atop a hill in an isolated section of the base, had been secured by emergency personnel and MPs.

burke.matt@stripes.com
sumida.chiyomi@stripes.com

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MILITARY

Dempsey: Ebola mission likely to last 18 months

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The military mission to combat Ebola in West Africa probably will last until 2016, according to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Pentagon is providing logistical, engineering and other support to other U.S. government agencies and international organizations trying to contain the outbreak and treat victims. The virus already has killed about 5,000 people in recent months.

There are 1,934 Defense Department personnel deployed to the region — 1,759 in Liberia and 175 in Senegal — to participate in Operation United Assistance. Officials have said that presence could increase to about 4,000.

"Is it a four-year mission? Probably not. But I bet it's every bit of 18 months, which would be three rotations of six-month deployments," Gen. Martin Dempsey told an audience at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs last Thursday.

The DOD effort began in earnest in September. By Dempsey's estimated timetable, Operation United Assistance likely will last until early 2016.

Dempsey said the results of

"The fight against Ebola is a stability operation ... We're trying to bring stability to a region of West Africa that is inherently unstable and to contain that disease there and ... try to stabilize (the area)."

Gen. Martin Dempsey
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

the international effort have been mixed.

"We think we're making some progress in Liberia," but "Sierra Leone is not trending favorably and nor is Guinea ... We'll see what happens with that," he said.



Dempsey

The Obama administration is getting ready to submit a request to Congress to fund the effort. Dempsey said the money likely would go to USAID, which then would reimburse DOD for expenses incurred.

The chairman described the

mission not as a humanitarian effort, but as a "stability operation" — a loaded term within Washington policy circles because it brings to mind the protracted campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama administration officials have said that the U.S. military won't be engaging in those kinds of missions in the foreseeable future.

"The fight against Ebola is a stability operation ... We're trying to bring stability to a region of West Africa that is inherently unstable and to contain that disease there and ... try to stabilize" the area, he told the audience.

"You can call it what you want," he said, "but it's a stability operation ... [even though] we said that we're not going to do stability operations."

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @JHarperStripes



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Packages line shelves while waiting to be picked up at the base post office at RAF Mildenhall, England, in December 2012.

Deadlines for holiday mail are approaching

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Christmas may be almost two months away, but service members and civilians stationed overseas should make plans now to get packages and cards in the mail in time for the holidays.

Customers planning to send mail by standard post should do so by Saturday, Defense Department officials said in a Navy release.

Most deadlines for faster mail services fall in early December with procrastinators able to ship packages via express mail as late as Dec. 17 from Europe and the Pacific, according to the Navy.

Officials in Europe said late shipping can mean longer waits in the post office and can cost more money. Packages ready by Nov. 26 can be shipped via space-

available mail for less.

"Space-available mail service takes longer to arrive to end destination and moves on a space-available basis once it arrives in the States," said Lionel Rivera, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa postal operations branch public affairs officer, in a USAF-AFAPRICA release.

Mail deadlines for APO AE Zip codes 090-098 and FPO AP 962-966:

- Standard post — Nov. 8;
- Space-available mail — Nov. 26;

■ First class/priority mail (this includes letters and cards) — Dec. 10; Dec. 3 for Iraq, Afghanistan and Middle East;

■ Priority mail express — Dec. 17 (not available for Iraq, Afghanistan and Middle East).

mathis.adam@stripes.com
Twitter: @AMathisStripes

More funds needed for Fort Hood memorial

The Associated Press

KILLEEN, Texas — Plans for a Central Texas memorial to the victims of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage have fallen about \$78,000 short to complete the site.

The Killen Daily Herald reports fundraising, as of Wednesday's fifth anniversary of the deadly gunfire, continues on the \$402,000 project.

The Color Up Killen 5K run on Saturday will benefit the Fort Hood November 5 Memorial planned near the Killen Civic and Conference Center.

Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded in the attack blamed on an Army psychiatrist. Nidal Hasan was convicted and was sentenced to death.

The memorial will include 13 U.S. flags, an open-air pavilion and 13 black granite columns.

Former Killen Mayor Fred Latham said crews began surveying the property last week and put stakes into the ground.

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MILITARY

Humanist rejected as chaplain files lawsuit

By CHRIS CARROLL

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An atheist Navy chaplain candidate is going to court over the service's rejection of his application.

Religion scholar and former youth minister Jason Heap filed suit Wednesday along with the organization backing him, the Humanist Society, alleging that the military unfairly passed him over earlier this year not because he lacked qualifications, but because he doesn't believe in a traditional religion.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., names as defendants Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and a number of other Department of Defense

and Navy personnel, including the current and former top Navy chaplains. DOD officials said they could not comment.

In addition to asking the court to recognize that Heap's constitutional rights were violated, the lawsuit asks for his reinstatement as a Navy chaplain and the designation of the Humanist Society as the official endorsing agent for humanist chaplains.

Heap applied to become a chaplain in July 2013 and learned this past spring that the Navy had declined his application without explanation.

According to the lawsuit, Navy officials were eager to enroll a chaplain with Heap's educational background, which includes degrees from Texas Christian University and Oxford University.

When they discovered he was seeking to enter the chaplaincy as a humanist who believes in living an ethical life based on nonreligious principles, his application went off track amid political protests, the suit alleges.

Heap's opponents in Congress and elsewhere ridicule the idea of chaplains who don't follow a religion. "The notion of an atheist chaplain is nonsensical; it's an oxymoron," said Rep. John Fleming, R-La., sponsor of a 2013 amendment to block atheist chaplains.

With Republicans set to assume control of the Senate, Ron Crews, executive director of the Washington-based Chaplains Alliance for Religious Liberty, told Stars and Stripes he hopes the Senate will soon ratify similar language in the National Defense Authori-

zation Act. Appointing an atheistic humanist chaplain would turn the definition of the job on its head, Crews said.

"Historically, that word has meant someone who represents a spiritual, faith-based denomination and/or religious group, who provides ministry from a faith-based perspective to members of the armed forces," he said. "That's what chaplains have done since our founding in 1775. A humanist does not meet the criteria."

Supporters say humanist ethical beliefs are constitutionally equal to religious faith and that humanists deserve the same protections and privileges as other religious groups. Heap, the lawsuit contends "adheres to these beliefs with the strength and sincerity of traditionally recognized religious

views."

Additionally, they contend chaplains are key contacts for troops on a variety of personnel and quality-of-life matters, ranging from recreational activities to suicide prevention programs. They're also among the only counselors who can speak to troops confidentially.

According to the lawsuit, 3.6 percent of the military identify themselves as humanists.

"As a result of the Navy's decision to deny Dr. Heap's application, there are no Humanist chaplains in the U.S. Navy or in any branch of the armed services," the lawsuit said. "The absence of even a single humanist chaplain impairs the religious exercise of Humanists in the Navy."

carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

Discharged chaplain wins election in Colo.

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A former Navy chaplain who was discharged for protesting in uniform at the White House and who claims transgender Americans are driven by a "demon of rape" has a new soapbox: the Colorado statehouse.

Gordon "Dr. Chaps" Klingenschmitt beat out his Democrat challenger Tuesday with a landslide 70 percent of the vote in the state's District 15, according to results published by the secretary of state.

District 15 encompasses Peterson Air Force Base and is near Colorado Springs, Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Klingenschmitt, 46, who runs the website Pray in Jesus Name, styled himself as a defender of religious freedom in his election campaign. He was kicked out of the service for the uniform violation in 2007 following an 18-day hunger strike and a rally protesting chaplaincy guidelines.

More recently, he has drawn national attention as an anti-LGBT activist who has claimed gay people "want your soul" and rallied against the push to allow a 6-year-old transgender Colorado student access to a co-ed school restroom. "As a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, I defended religious freedom for everybody," including the rights of Jewish, Muslim and atheist sailors, Klingenschmitt said in a campaign video before the election.

His platform advocated gun rights and opposed domestic spying, abortion and national school standards. His main opponent, Democrat Lois Fornander, was trounced after running for renewable energy, LGBT civil rights, economic equality, and stricter regulation of banks and corporations.

Klingenschmitt, a chaplain for 16 years, takes donations and publishes video messages about religious and political issues on

his website. In recent posts, he told followers that a "Satanic evil spirit" is using President Barack Obama and is responsible for domestic spying programs.

The LGBT community is a common subject of his warnings. He criticized the U.S. Air Force chief of chaplains in June for advocating tolerance at an LGBT Pride Month event and said "we should be ashamed America is embracing sin."

Klingenschmitt said the parents of Coy Mathis, the 6-year-old transgender student, were abusing her the child, born a boy, by allowing her to dress as a girl, and a proposal to allow co-ed bathrooms at schools in Colorado would lead to sexual assault. "There is a demon of rape inside this movement to violate your daughters," he said.

Klingenschmitt gained notoriety in 2005 as a chaplain when he went on a hunger strike at the White House, saying the Navy pressured him to drop mentions of Jesus at public events and violated his rights. Service guidelines said chaplains should avoid Christian references at nonreligious events out of respect for service members with other religious beliefs.

Klingenschmitt said the service had singled him out "because I pray in Jesus' name." The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, the country's largest chaplaincy advocate, called the controversy inflated and misleading.

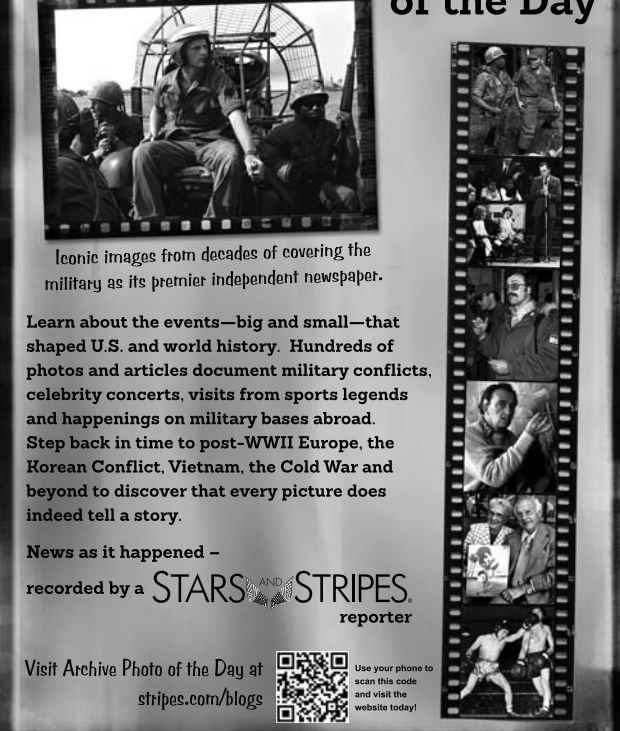
The Navy had said Klingenschmitt was in good standing at the time, had no pending disciplinary action and had not been punished for religious references in public. That changed when he appeared at another religious rights rally in front of the White House in his Navy uniform in violation of service rules.

He was convicted of the violation in a court-martial and discharged in 2007.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
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MILITARY

First Choice Cards going to 320K vets

By TOM PHILPOTT

The Department of Veterans Affairs has mailed its first veteran Choice Cards, with letters explaining how to use them, to 320,000 VA-enrolled veterans who live more than 40 miles from any type of VA medical facility.

By late November, another 370,000 vets, those facing waits longer than 30 days for VA appointments, will be the second group to get the cards, said Dr. James Tuchschnidt, the VA's acting principal deputy under secretary for health.

Those are the two groups of veterans eligible immediately to use information on their Choice Cards to try to secure more convenient or timely care than the VA can provide. By the end of January, another 8 million enrolled veterans will receive Choice Cards. Those veterans, however, won't be eligible to use them to access non-VA care unless they move beyond 40 miles away from a VA-owned medical facility or if the VA can't provide care within 30 days. The 30-day window is based on a veteran's preferred date to get care or the date deemed medically necessary by their physicians.

To receive a Choice Card, a veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care by Aug. 1, 2014. Those who have enrolled later are eligible only if they served on active duty in theaters of combat operations in the previous five years.

As veteran advocacy groups have cautioned for months, the Choice Card is not a golden key to unlimited health care from any physician or facility a veteran might choose, despite what some lawmakers touted last summer while making it the featured item of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

"It is important to know that the Choice Card does not provide guaranteed health care coverage or an unlimited medical benefit," VA Secretary Bob McDonald explains in a letter to the first card recipients. "In fact, before your Choice Card for this benefit can be used, your eligibility must be verified and you must receive advance authorization from VA."

The card itself is similar to most health insurance cards, with the holder's name shown and a number to call to verify eligibility for outside care. Authorization to use it must be cleared by a program manager for every episode of care.

Those authorized to seek outside care can choose from a network of VA-approved providers or their own providers, if VA approved. To be approved, they must treat Medicare patients and accept Medicare rates or work at a Department of Defense or Indian Health Service facility or in a federally qualified health center.

"They also have to have a valid license to practice," Tuchschnidt

said. "We put that stuff in there to make sure that the people we are engaging to see veteran patients are actually qualified to see them."

Angry at the discovery of systemic patient wait-time abuses across the VA health system last spring, Congress gave the VA only 90 days to establish the Choice Card program as a way to guarantee more timely and convenient access to care.

The deadline left the VA with no alternative to getting the program launched without partnering with two current contractors — TriWest Healthcare Alliance, of Phoenix, Ariz., and HealthNet Federal Services, of Arlington, Va. Both already run VA Patient-Centered Community Care, or PC3, networks, which backstop VA health care with networks of primary and specialty care providers. The contracts swiftly were modified to include operation of the Choice Card program and expansion of provider networks and telephone call centers to meet significantly heavier demand.

Providers in the TriWest and HealthNet networks already are pre-screened and certify that they will meet VA measures for timeliness and quality of care, and will transfer medical records promptly back to the VA to ensure continuity of care.

Though the law required cards to be mailed to every eligible enrolled veteran by Nov. 5, VA officials opted for a phased rollout to avoid any program crash.

"It just didn't make sense to mail cards to almost 9 million veterans and try to build a telephone call center [large enough to answer all those calls and questions]," Tuchschnidt said. "It would have been inundated and [also] extraordinarily expensive for a vendor to build that surge capacity."

So the VA chose to send cards first to veterans with mailing addresses more than 40 miles from VA health facilities. In about two weeks, after TriWest and HealthNet have handled the bulk of those calls by verifying eligibility, screening providers and making appointments within a five-day goal, the contractors will begin to process card usage by veterans facing long delays for VA care.

Tuchschnidt noted that the VA medical system continues its stepped-up effort since May to get as many patients as possible off waiting lists and into VA care. The VA had 1.2 million more patient visits in fiscal 2014 than a year earlier, he said, with 500,000 patients seen on weekends and evenings. Also, while awaiting full implementation of Choice Card, many patients facing long waits will be referred to private-sector care under previous VA authorities.

Last month, as the new law required, the VA also streamlined how it pays for outside hospital care and medical services delivered by non-VA providers.

MILITARY UPDATE

Choice Card is to end in three years, or whenever the VA spends all of the \$10 billion set aside to fund it. Tuchschnidt predicts the money won't run out before the card program expires in late 2017.

Veterans will find quirks in the how the law or the VA's interpretation affects eligibility. For example, the law's 40-mile rule is based on the distance to any VA health facility, regardless of size

or services offered. So if a veteran needs routine care from a cardiologist and lives 100 miles from the nearest VA cardiologist but within 40 miles of a small VA clinic, the clinic's location will disqualify the veteran from using Choice Card to get private-sector cardiology care.

Also, the VA interprets the 40 miles to be a "straight line" distance, not driving distance. That means a veteran won't be able to use outside care if the VA hospital is within 40 miles "as the crow flies," however long it takes to reach by car.

The VA leases but doesn't own medical facilities in Alaska or

Hawaii, which means almost all veterans living there can use Choice Cards to get private sector-care if they choose, Tuchschnidt said. The VA also doesn't run any health facilities in New Hampshire. Vets who live there can use the cards unless they live within 20 miles of a VA facility operating in a neighboring state, he said.

The letter sent with each Choice Card invites veterans to get more information on the program online at: www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centerville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

US strikes target al-Qaida wing in Syria

From staff reports

U.S. forces launched airstrikes against five targets of a Syria-based al-Qaida wing that the U.S. believes is plotting attacks in the United States and Europe, including bombings of American commercial airliners.

A Central Command statement said the attacks against the Khorasan group were carried out by B-1 bombers, F-16 fighter jets and MQ-9 Reaper drones that occurred around the northern Syrian town of Sarmada near the border with Turkey.

The statement said the attacks, which took place late Wednesday or early Thursday, destroyed or seriously damaged several vehicles and buildings used by the Khorasan group for meetings, staging areas, IED factories and training facilities.

Syrian activists said the attacks were part of a series of airstrikes, including some against a powerful, hardline rebel group not affiliated with the Islamic State group, which has overrun vast areas of Syria and neighboring Iraq. The attacks represented an apparent widening of targets that could strain relations between Washington and the Western-backed opposition fighting the government of

Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Activists said the targets included a headquarters and a vehicle belonging to the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, which works closely with the Khorasan group, as well as a compound of the deeply conservative Ahrar al-Sham rebel group. It marked only the second time the United States had expanded its aerial campaign against Islamic State militants to hit other extremists in Syria.

The strikes took place amid a Nusra Front offensive that has routed Western-backed rebel groups from their strongholds in Syria's Idlib province near the Turkish border. The timing led to speculation in the region that Washington could be trying to curb the militant assault and destroy weapons supplies of hardline rebels and al-Qaida fighters.

However, CENTCOM insisted the attacks were not in response to the Nusra Front offensive and did not target the front "as a whole."

"They were directed at the Khorasan group whose focus is not on overthrowing the Assad regime or helping the Syrian people," the statement said. "These al-Qaida operatives are taking advantage of the Syrian conflict to advance attacks against Western interests."

The U.S. targeted the Nusra Front in the first wave of airstrikes in Syria in late September, accusing it of harboring the Khorasan group. The Americans had not gone after the group since then, until Thursday.

Striking groups whose primary focus is fighting the Assad government risks further enraging many Syrians in opposition-held areas who believe Washington is aiding Assad in his struggle to hold onto power in the country's 3½-year-old civil war. Those Syrians include many whom Washington wants to retrain and organize into an effective force to help fight the Islamic State group.

"We are tired of people saying they are coming to help us, and then they kill us," said activist Asaad Kanjo, based in Idlib.

Nusra Front fighters seized Sarmada and a series of other communities throughout Idlib province earlier this month from a Western-backed and funded rebel group known as the Syrian Revolutionaries Front. The militants have since been massing in Sarmada, closing in on the strategic Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey without physically taking it over.

"Of course they (Americans)

would be worried that Nusra could take Bab al-Hawa or seize arm stockpiles going in for other groups, if they are doing that," said Aron Lund, editor of Syria in Crisis, a website run by the Carnegie Endowment.

The Nusra Front is a fierce rival of the Islamic State group, despite their shared extremist ideology. The two factions have been locked in a bloody conflict since early this year, during which Islamic State militants routed Nusra fighters from eastern Syria as they consolidated their hold on a vast tract of territory spanning Syria and neighboring Iraq.

The strikes overnight also marked the first time the U.S. has bombed the hard-line Ahrar al-Sham group, activists said. They said several missiles hit a compound belonging to the group in the village of Babiska in Idlib province. The CENTCOM statement made no mention of targeting Ahrar al-Sham.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the targets had been carefully selected and that personnel in the affected areas could have included some who were affiliated with the Nusra Front and other organizations. "But these strikes were not specifically tar-

getting any of those other organizations; they were targeting the Khorasan Group," he said.

Ahrar al-Sham is part of the Islamic Front, an alliance of seven powerful conservative and ultra-conservative rebel groups that merged in November last year. The Islamic Front wants to create an Islamic state in Syria governed by Sharia and rejects the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition, but cooperates with some Western-backed rebel groups on the ground.

"Ahrar al-Sham was one of the biggest fighting groups against the (Assad) regime, and it proved its ability to liberate many areas," said opposition activist Abu Abdul-Qader. "They (the Americans) said they would shell the strongholds of terrorists — who they think are terrorists."

Others in the Syrian opposition have said it wasn't strategically wise to widen the scope of U.S. strikes against other rebel groups, because it gives the impression — at the very least — that the U.S. and its allies are siding with Assad forces.

The United States says it still supports Assad's removal from power but is not targeting government forces.

Obama: President says authorization needs updating for the current fight

FROM FRONT PAGE

That law, passed during the Vietnam War, serves as a constitutional basis on presidential power to declare war without congressional consent. It requires presidents to notify Congress within 48 hours of military action and limits the use of military forces to no more than 60 days unless Congress authorizes force or declares war.

Administration officials said Obama still believed he had that authority, but with the elections over, he concluded that the time was right to petition Congress for more explicit authority, and is one of a few areas where he will seek to work with lawmakers during the lame-duck session before a new Congress is seated in January.

"The idea is to right-size and update whatever authorization Congress provides to suit the current fight, rather than previous fights," Obama told reporters at the White House.

He said he would update congressional leaders about the fight against the Islamic State group during meetings Friday. He said he wanted to start now to craft new authorization but that completing it could carry over into next year when a new Congress will usher in Republican control of the Senate.

The president was guarded about the progress of the military operation against the Islamic State. He said it was too soon to say whether the United States and its allies were winning, noting that it would take a long time to upgrade Iraqi forces to the point where they could reclaim territory now held by the militants. He was even more circumspect about Syria.

"Our focus in Syria is not to solve the entire Syria situation, but rather to isolate the areas in which ISIL can operate," he added, using an alternative name for the Islamic State.

That statement appeared somewhat at odds with a recent memo sent to the White House by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in which he criticized the administration's Syria policy for failing to connect the campaign against the Islamic State to the broader struggle against President Bashar Assad.

Hagel wrote that unless the U.S. clarified its intentions against the Assad regime, it would fail to enlist allies such as Turkey and France, since those countries are intent on ousting Assad. Other officials said that in internal debates, Hagel has not advocated taking a strong line against Assad, and in fact has echoed the Pentagon's resistance to going to war with the Syrian government.

That will be one of the issues likely to come up in a congressional debate over authorization. Before the election, Congress passed limited authorization to pay for the training and equipping of Syrian rebels. Now the White House is seeking an authorization to use military force that would be tailored to a prolonged fight against the Islamic State.

Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Wednesday that he has made clear that a new authorization was needed and that any prolonged military campaign requires a new authorization approved by Con-

gress. He said he would start the process in the days ahead and that the committee would hold hearings on Iraq and Syria beginning next week. "It is incumbent that Congress take the lead in authorizing the use of force," Menendez said.

In September, during a heated

congressional debate over training moderate Syrian rebels, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said a new authorization was something that lawmakers should consider. But he also suggested the lame-duck session was the wrong time to do it and that the vote should wait until next year.

Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democrat and a member of the House Intelligence Committee, on Wednesday called on Boehner to schedule a vote on a new authorization before the current Congress draws to a close.

The New York Times contributed to this report.

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ELECTION 2014

Obama is defiant, upbeat following gloomy election

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day after Democrats lost control of the Senate and suffered big losses in House and governors' races across the country, President Barack Obama struck a defiant tone. He defended his policies, stood by his staff and showed few signs of changing an approach to dealing with congressional Republicans that has generated little more than gridlock in recent years.

Rather than accept the election results as a repudiation of his own administration, the president said voters were disenchanted with Washington as a whole. And rather than offering door assessments of his party's electoral thrashing, as he did after the 2010 midterms, the president insisted repeatedly that he was optimistic about the country's future.

"It doesn't make me money," he said of the election during a news conference in the East Room of the White House. "It energizes me because it means that this democracy's working."

The president's sunny outlook stood in sharp contrast to the gloomy electorate. Most voters leaving polling places said they didn't have much trust in government and felt the nation was on the wrong track. Those feeling pessimistic were more likely to vote for Republican congressional candidates, according to exit polls.

To some Republicans, the gulf between the public's mood and the president's outlook suggested a White House that's out of touch and refusing to recalibrate after getting a clear message from voters. Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, wondered whether Obama was "detached or in denial."

"In word and tone, he refused to take responsibility or even express humility," Priebus said. "He seemed to suggest the only ideas he's willing to listen to are his own, old, failed ones."

Indeed, Obama spoke only broadly about the need to reassess as he heads into his final two years in office. He said it was "premature" to discuss overhauling his staff or shifting positions

on policies. He reasserted his pledge to move forward with executive actions on immigration before the end of the year, despite strong opposition from Republicans. And he rejected the notion that his limited relationship with Republican lawmakers, including the likely Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., would hamper potential compromise with the Congress.

Obama's postelection positioning was part of a calculated strategy from a White House eager to avoid a repeat of 2010, when the president declared that Democrats had suffered a "shellacking" — a blunt assessment that came to define that election. This time around, Obama repeatedly refused to publicly analyze the outcome of the election, saying he didn't want to "read the tea leaves on election results."

Privately, Obama's advisers acknowledged that Tuesday's outcome was far worse than what they expected. They say Obama's upbeat approach reflects a president who has spent the past several weeks growing more comfortable with the prospect of Republicans con-



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Barack Obama smiles at a reporter after saying that he's missed speaking to the reporters as he is asked a question during a news conference Wednesday in the East Room of the White House.

trolling Congress in his final two years in office and is intrigued by the possible opportunities that could open up as a result.

Advisers disputed the Republican criticism that Obama was tone deaf to the need to adjust to Washington's new political landscape. Announcing an array of administration changes Wednesday would be little more than a gimmick, one adviser said, adding that the president needs to instead show the country over time that he's committed to working alongside Republicans.

The advisers would only discuss the White House's internal thinking on the condition of anonymity.

The president's outreach to Capitol Hill will get underway Friday, when Obama meets with congressional leaders at the White House. The president suggested he'd be up for more one-on-one time with the presumed Senate majority leader.

"I would enjoy some Kentucky bourbon with Mitch McConnell," said Obama, who last year mocked the idea of having a drink with the GOP leader.

Then, offering a glimpse into how little time Obama has spent cultivating a relationship with McConnell over the past six years, the president added, "I don't know what his preferred drink is."

GOP in charge, eager to move on Keystone XL, taxes

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans' resounding victory gives them an opportunity to push legislation that has been bottled up in the Democratic Senate, from targeting elements of President Barack Obama's health care law to constructing the Keystone XL oil pipeline to rolling back environmental regulations.

Democrats suffered a drubbing in Tuesday's midterm elections, and Republicans regained control of the Senate and widely expanded their majority in the House. In command in both chambers in January, Republicans maintained that they have to show they can govern or else voters will show them the door.

"We now have the votes and we have the ability to call the agenda, so stop name-calling and let's actually produce some legislation

that helps jobs and the economy and moves our country forward," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said in an interview. "I think the country has figured that out, and they've given us the mandate to do it, and we better produce, or they'll kick us out too."

Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in line as the next Senate majority leader, wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed on Thursday that they will focus first on jobs and the economy.

The GOP is expected to provide a more detailed description of the first 100 days of an all-GOP Congress after House leadership elections next week.

House Republicans are counting on McConnell to move ahead on the dozens of jobs bills that have been passed by the House but remained stalled in the Senate.

"It's jobs, jobs, jobs," said Rep.

Randy Weber, R-Texas, who also wants to lift the ban on crude oil exports.

Republicans also are counting on a swift vote early next year on building the Keystone XL pipeline to carry oil from Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast now that Republicans clearly have the numbers in the Senate. The GOP could have as many as 54 Senate seats if Republican Dan Sullivan prevails in Alaska and the party wins a Dec. 6 runoff in Louisiana. The House majority could reach historic levels of 250 out of 435 seats.

"It's in our best interest to show we can function and that we can lead responsibly, and that would involve getting bills that have already passed the House with bipartisan support and get Democrats to join us in the Senate and get those to the president, even something like trade," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo.

McConnell signaled Wednes-

day that he could work with Obama on trade agreements and a tax overhaul as both sides look toward governing rather than gridlock.

It won't be easy. Many of the moderate Democrats who would be willing to compromise were defeated in Tuesday's elections, reducing the number of lawmakers in the middle. In the next Congress, independent Sen. Angus King, of Maine, and moderate Democrats Joe Manchin, of West Virginia; Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota; and Jon Tester, of Montana will hold considerable leverage.

Republicans will be under pressure from many in their ranks and outside conservatives to scrap the health care law, but McConnell and the more pragmatic GOP lawmakers acknowledge that is next to impossible because of Obama's veto power.

"If I had the ability, obviously,

I'd get rid of it," McConnell said of the Affordable Care Act as he spoke to reporters at a news conference in Kentucky. "Obviously, it's also true he's still there."

McConnell indicated the GOP would push for a repeal of the tax on medical devices, which has some Democratic support, and target the requirement that individuals sign up for health insurance or face a penalty.

Obama told reporters that ending the individual mandate was a nonstarter, calling it a "line I can't cross" because it would unravel the law.

Further complicating the relationship between Obama and the newly empowered Republicans is the president's vow to act unilaterally before year's end to reduce the number of deportations and to grant work permits to millions of immigrants illegally in the United States.

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NATION

Suspect in woman's slaying caught after posting death photos

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A man accused of slaying his girlfriend, posting photos of her body and the gruesome crime scene online and writing that he wanted authorities to kill him has surrendered.

Authorities said late Wednesday night that David Kalac, 33, was arrested at a transit center in Oregon, about 20 miles south of Portland.

Kalac has been charged with second-degree murder in the slaying of Amber Lynn Coplin, 30, in neighboring Washington state. He was transported to Portland, where he was being held on \$2 million bail.

Police say they found Coplin's body in a bedroom. Near her head was her driver's license with the word "dead" written on it. The words "bad news" were written

on blinds. And the words "she killed me first" were written on a picture on the wall.

An officer was patrolling the area in Oregon when a man came out of a wooded area near a parking lot.

"He basically said, 'I have a warrant for my arrest,'" Clackamas County sheriff's Sgt. Nate Thompson said in a telephone interview. Kalac was cooperative but provided no details about how he got to Wilsonville, the spokesman said.

Washington state detectives have arrived in Portland and hoped to interview him, as well as take possession of the dead woman's car, a 2001 Ford Focus that was found Wednesday afternoon in Portland, about 160 miles south of the crime scene.

Portland police briefly chased the car early Wednesday.

Police have confirmed that gruesome photos posted on a website are of the victim and the Port Orchard crime scene, Wilson said.



Kalac

Documents: Teen planned attack at Maryland school

The Associated Press

MONKTON, Md. — A Maryland teenager told police he planned to use a stolen handgun to kill his parents, then to drive to his high school and to kill students and teachers as revenge for years of bullying he suffered, according to court documents released Wednesday.

Sash Alexander Nemphos, 16, of Monkton, is charged as an adult, Baltimore County Police said in a tweet. The charges include possession of a destructive device, having a dangerous weapon on school property and theft, according to the probable cause documents.

Nemphos was confronted Saturday by police over thefts from a car and a business, including a handgun. After asking him about the stolen gun several times, the 10th-grader, who officers said was clearly intoxicated, told police he was going to take the gun, drive to his school Monday,

shoot the school officer and then take the officer's gun to "kill as many teachers and students as he could."

The documents say the teen also said he had made several bombs to blow up the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology.

Police recovered from his home a handgun, three crude homemade explosives, a suicide note and a journal with all his plans, the probable cause documents said. He was arrested at his home.

Nemphos told officers he had intended to go through with his plan on Halloween and had taken the gun in his backpack to school. But he had forgotten the bombs so he aborted his plan, he said. He also said he was too drunk to carry out the plan, the documents said.

He said he was going to try again Monday and would stay sober to do it, the documents said.



JOSEPH KACZMAREK/AP

Family members surround Keisha Gaither, second from left, mother of kidnapping victim Carlesha Freeland-Gaither, as they celebrate in Philadelphia on Wednesday after investigators said the woman seen on a surveillance video being abducted in Philadelphia had been found safe outside Baltimore.

Police: Abducted woman's fight helped save her life

BY SEAN CARLIN
AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — An abducted woman's fighting spirit likely helped keep her alive until law enforcement agents rescued her and arrested her suspected captor, Philadelphia's police commissioner said Thursday.

"My understanding is, even after she was in the car and bound, she continued to struggle with this guy," Charles Ramsey told ABC News, hours after police reunited Carlesha Freeland-Gaither with her family at a Maryland hospital. "She's got a lot of fight in her."

Freeland-Gaither, 22, was resting at home in Philadelphia on Thursday and was not yet ready to talk publicly about her three-day ordeal.

Police said Freeland-Gaither, who disappeared Sunday night, had some injuries but was generally doing OK.

Ramsey said detectives are giving her time to settle down before completing interviews.

Cinquetta Barfield said

Freeland-Gaither's family will speak to media Thursday evening. Barfield said they had not slept since she disappeared Sunday night.

Law enforcement agents spotted Freeland-Gaither and suspect Delvin Barnes on Wednesday in a car with a broken-out back window in Jessup, Md. They arrested Barnes after he stepped out of the car.

Barnes, 37, was being held Thursday at the jail in suburban Baltimore County, said Scott Shellenberger, the state's attorney for the county.

He was scheduled to have a hearing in suburban Baltimore later Thursday on a charge of being a fugitive from justice in Virginia, according to Shellenberger and online court records. Authorities there said he is wanted in connection with attempted capital murder, assault and malicious injury with acid, explosives or fire.

Barnes couldn't be reached for comment while in custody.

The Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's office said Thursday morning no charges have been filed in

the abduction case.

Keisha Gaither, who a day earlier had sobbed as she pleaded for the safe return of her kidnapped daughter, was smiling as she stood before the microphone at a Philadelphia news conference Wednesday evening.

"I'm taking my baby home. Thank you. Thank you so much," she said as authorities announced the nursing assistant's rescue and the arrest of the suspect.

Authorities said there was no indication Freeland-Gaither and the man, who used to live in Philadelphia, knew each other.

"No one else is in danger right now because we got a very dangerous predator off the streets," Ramsey said.

Authorities credited hard work by law enforcement agents in finding Freeland-Gaither. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents had received information from Richmond, Va., to be on the lookout for a vehicle that might have been involved in the abduction, said Tim Jones, resident agent in charge with the ATF in Lanham, Md.



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NATION



MANAGING THE HERD

Custer State Park's annual roundup has become a worldwide attraction

The Associated Press

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. — The images are much like moviegoers saw during the buffalo hunt when "Dances With Wolves" hit the big screen nearly 25 years ago: hundreds of massive animals shaking the prairie as they kick up dust and stream down the hills.

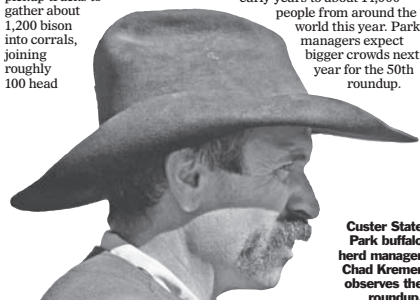
During the annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup in South Dakota's Black Hills on Sept. 26, horseback riders — many of them real-life cowboys — were joined by all-terrain vehicles and pickup trucks to gather about 1,200 bison into corrals, joining roughly 100 head

brought in earlier. They're branded and given vaccinations and then the herd is culled, or reduced, to about 900 that will be released back onto the park to roam free for another year. The rest are sold at auction.

The annual event started 49 years ago as a way to manage the herd and ensure there's enough grass for all the animals.

"We'd do it if nobody showed up, but we share it with America," said Craig Pugsley, visitor services coordinator for the park.

The crowd has grown from a few hundred spectators in the early years to about 14,000 people from around the world this year. Park managers expect bigger crowds next year for the 50th roundup.



Custer State Park buffalo herd manager Chad Kremer observes the roundup.



Top: Flag bearer Phil Randall, of Custer, S.D., rides through a pasture at the 49th annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup in the southern Black Hills near Custer, S.D., on Sept. 26. **Left:** Jim Lindsay brands a buffalo calf. **Below:** Buffalo are moved into the corrals. **After the roundup,** some of the buffalo were vaccinated, branded, checked for pregnancy and others were sorted for an auction.

PHOTOS BY KRISTINA BARKER/AP



NATION



MICHAEL J. MULLEN, SCRANTON (PA.) TIMES & TRIBUNE/AP

Debris is strewn about the main room inside the airport hangar on abandoned Birchwood Resort grounds in Pocono Township, Pa., on Tuesday where accused Pennsylvania State Trooper killer Eric Frein was arrested Oct. 30.

Guns, laptop found with ambush suspect's capture

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

Eric Frein stowed Soviet-era weapons alongside modern technology and found sustenance in bags of beans and a bottle of soy sauce and warmth from candles, a propane stove and camouflage gear.

The survivalist marksman charged in a deadly ambush on a Pennsylvania state police barracks kept more than 100 items in an abandoned air-plane hangar that investigators say he commandeered for shelter and storage in the gloaming of a 48-day manhunt.



Frein

Frein's capture last week, police combed through the barn-like building and recovered a disparate collection. Outlined in court documents Wednesday, the items reflect the military re-enactor's deep interest in war and an innate need to survive the elements and boredom.

Circus cited for stunt that left 9 injured

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus misused a key rigging component in a hair-hanging stunt, causing a fall that seriously injured eight acrobats from the U.S., Brazil, Bulgaria and Ukraine, federal workplace safety regulators said Tuesday.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the company for a serious safety violation and proposed the maximum fine, \$7,000, for the circus' parent

There, at the Birchwood-Pocono Airpark about 35 miles south of the Blooming Grove barracks where prosecutors say Frein killed one trooper and critically wounded another, police found a Chinese-made, Soviet-era sniper rifle, a second rifle of the type used by the former Yugoslavian army and a handgun used by the former Czechoslovakian military.

They also found a scope and mount, a bayonet and more than 200 bullets.

Along with the material were DVDs, a laptop computer, a pair of storage drives, a solar power converter, earbuds and a wireless mouse, according to a five-page search warrant inventory.

Frein told authorities he used unprotected Wi-Fi hotspots to connect to the Internet, according to court documents, raising the possibility he knew where police were focusing their search efforts each day.

He also had shortwave and weather band radios, along with copies of psalms and scriptures, a composition book and more than a dozen maps, according to the inventory.

Pike County District Attorney

Raymond Tonkin released the details to the media Wednesday but said neither his office nor state police would answer questions.

Frein's lawyers did not immediately return a telephone message.

The 31-year-old is being held without bail. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 12.

Prior to his capture, state police said they believe Frein had been breaking into cabins and unoccupied vacation homes for food and shelter.

Investigators found evidence of sustenance in the abandoned hangar, according to the inventory, including dozens of empty water bottles, bags of rice, salt and pepper and a spork.

They also found a kit for dressing hunted animals, rolls of toilet paper and paper towels, grooming and first-aid supplies, flashlights and piles of cloth clothing and blankets.

During the manhunt, trackers found other items they believe Frein hid or abandoned in the woods, including soiled diapers, empty packs of Serbian cigarettes, an AK-47-style assault rifle and ammunition.

than it was rated to hold.

David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, called it a "catastrophic failure," and said it demonstrates the circus industry needs professional engineers to develop, evaluate and inspect the structures it uses in performances.

"We can never put a price on the impact this event had on these workers and their families. Employers must take steps to ensure this does not happen again," he said.

From The Associated Press

CEO: Virgin Galactic may resume tests in '15

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The space tourism company that suffered a tragic setback when its experimental rocket-powered spaceship broke apart over the California desert could resume test flights as early as next summer if it can finish building a replacement craft, its CEO says.

The sleek composite shell and tail section of the new craft are sitting inside the company's manufacturing facility in Mojave, California.

After more than two years of work, it's beginning to look like a spaceship, but Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides said there's much more to be done, from relatively simple things such as installing windows to the more complex fitting of flight controls and other wiring.

The ship — dubbed SpaceShipTwo Serial No. 2 — will replace one that was destroyed last week after its feathering system that controls descent deployed prematurely and aerodynamic forces ripped it apart, killing the co-pilot and seriously injuring the pilot.

In the wake of the accident, workers have focused on building the new ship.

Whitesides said the company will be able to continue flying its mother ship — the much larger jet-powered plane that launches the rocket ship at high altitudes — while federal investigators look into the cause of the deadly crash with the cooperation of the company.

It's possible that test flights for the next spaceship could begin within six months, before the investigation is expected to con-

clude, Whitesides said.

Scaled Composites, which is developing the spacecraft for Virgin Galactic, has an experimental permit from the Federal Aviation Administration to test the crafts. Just last month, the company had received approval from the agency to resume rocket-powered flights.

When the new ship is ready next year, the FAA said it will conduct a more extensive review to ensure whatever caused last week's mishap has been addressed before allowing test flights to resume.

Speculation continues about how far the accident will push back the day when Virgin Galactic's paying customers can routinely rocket dozens of miles from a \$219 million spacecraft in the New Mexico desert's stark toward the edge of space for a fleeting feeling of weightlessness and a breathtaking view.

Whitesides said the accident has been tough on many levels, but he refused to see it as a roadblock.

"There was no question it was a tragic setback, but it's one from which we can recover," he said.

"With Serial No. 2, we'll be putting a stronger, better ship into initial commercial service and I think we'll be able to get back into test flights soon and carry forward."

George
Whitesides
Virgin Galactic
CEO

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WORLD



ALEX KOLOMOISKY/AP

Injured men lie on the sidewalk after a Palestinian drove a minivan into a crowded train station in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Police said the motorist slammed his car into the train platform in east Jerusalem, killing one person and injuring 13.

Israel: No status change at Jerusalem holy site

By PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's prime minister has emphasized there will be no change in the status of a contentious Jerusalem holy site amid spiking tensions in the area.

The statement by Benjamin Netanyahu came a day after a Hamas militant slammed a minivan into a crowd waiting for a train in Jerusalem, killing one person and wounding 13 before being shot dead by police, and a Palestinian motorist drove into a group of soldiers in the West Bank, wounding three.

The second motorist turned himself into Israeli security forces Thursday, the army said.

The attacks came after Palestinians clashed with police at the holy compound — known as the Temple Mount to Jews and the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims — over a push by Israeli activists to widen access to Jews visiting the site.

The clashes, which erupted as Palestinians threw stones and firecrackers in response to a demonstration by Israeli activists, prompted Jordan — which has custodial rights to the site as part of its 1994 peace agreement with Israel — to recall its ambassador in protest at the actions of Israeli security forces.

The wife of the first attacker

ICC: No action on Israeli storming of aid boat

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Israeli forces may have committed war crimes when they stormed an aid flotilla boat heading to Gaza in 2010, but the possible crimes are not grave enough to merit a prosecution at the International Criminal Court, the court's prosecutor said Thursday.

"Following a thorough legal and factual analysis of the information available, I have concluded that there is a reasonable basis to believe that war crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court were committed on one of the vessels, the Mavi Marmara, when Israeli Defense Forces intercepted the 'Gaza Freedom Flotilla' on 31 May 2010," prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said in a statement.

However, Bensouda said that any cases relating to the storming "would not be of sufficient gravity to justify further action by the ICC."

Eight Turks and one Turkish-American were killed and several other pro-Palestinian activists were wounded when Israeli commandos stormed the ship Mavi Marmara on May 31, 2010.

From The Associated Press

said he had been angered by the confrontation at the site earlier in the day.

"There will be no change in the status quo at the Temple Mount," government spokesman Mark Reggev quoted Netanyahu as telling security officials late Wednesday. "Anyone saying otherwise is expressing a personal opinion and not the views of the government."

Reacting Thursday to comments from Israeli security officials that any change in the status

of the site could ratchet tensions well past the breaking point, Moshe Feiglin, a lawmaker from Netanyahu's Likud Party, said that the struggle there was directly related to Israeli efforts to achieve overall security throughout the country.

"Any pullback from the Temple Mount will not end just at its gates," he said. "This society has to decide whether it is willing to pay the price to maintain its control, not only at the site, but in Israel as a whole."

Libya court rules elections unconstitutional

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Libya's Supreme Court has ruled that the June election that produced the internationally recognized legislature and government was unconstitutional.

The ruling on Thursday will almost certainly plunge the country deeper into crisis. The parliament elected in June has appointed a

government that has been fighting Islamic militant groups and seeking to restore law and order in the vast, energy-rich North African nation.

The elected parliament sits in the city of Tobruk in the far east. Islamist-allied militias control the capital Tripoli, where a rival Islamist-dominated parliament re-

mains in place despite an expired mandate.

Libya has been gripped by unrest since the 2011 uprising that toppled dictator Moammar Gadhafi, as the weak central authorities have struggled to reign in regional, ideological and other militias who control much of the country.

High school shelling deaths in Ukraine hurt hopes for peace

By NATALIYA VASILEYEVA
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — The shelling of a high school in Ukraine's rebel stronghold of Donetsk has chilled even the battle-hardened in this weary nation.

The killing of two teenagers as they were playing soccer after lunch Wednesday is a stark reminder that the cease-fire agreed upon in September has really existed only on paper. Four other students were wounded, according to Dr. Vladimir Voropayev, chief of the children's trauma unit at the regional hospital in Donetsk.

The warring sides — government troops on one side and pro-Russian separatists on the other — now look as far from any lasting settlement as they ever were.

On the soccer field at Donetsk's school No. 63, two bloodied coats still lay out in the open Thursday as relatives and staff gathered at the scene.

Alexander Yeliseyev, the father of one victim, Andrei, 18, walked by in shock as he gathered belongings left behind when his son's body was removed — a dark brown coat and a pair of sneakers.

"They went to play football at about 2 p.m., while I was at work. And then the shelling began. Here you see the result," Yeliseyev said, gulping back sobs.

He said Danya, 14, another student, was also killed.

Authorities in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, said the security services will investigate the shelling of a school, but officials already appear to have made their minds up. Security spokesman Andriy Lysenko said preliminary information indicated the shells flew into the school from a location controlled by separatist forces.

The rebels, however, swiftly blamed Ukrainian forces for the

deadly attack, saying government troops often indiscriminately target residential areas in eastern Ukraine.

All that is certain so far is that the school where the shells landed is at least 1.2 miles from the nearest government position but close to rebel posts.

That would appear to lend weight to claims of Ukrainian culpability — government troops shelling the rebels — but Lysenko said the shelling was planned in advance by the rebels to discredit government forces.

Government officials have failed to produce cast-iron evidence of such claims in the past, and independent rights groups say there's evidence that government artillery has hit homes in eastern Ukraine.

Residents of stricken areas have frequently complained that rebels deploy artillery near homes, invariably drawing return fire.

At school No. 63, which was lavishly refurbished last year with funds provided by local billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, a dozen teachers and sobbing parents huddled by the soccer field Thursday as the roar of an outgoing missile fire was heard a few miles away.

Two mortars had landed on the school premises Wednesday — one next to a concrete porch by the school, shattering a few windows. The one that killed the students landed behind a goalpost, scorching the ground and leaving a small crater.

Oksana Safonova's son Kirill, 11, was lucky to sustain only wounds to the shoulder, hip and ribs. Quick thinking may have saved his life.

"He said to me: 'Mom, we got down on the ground and then the mortar landed next to me. I passed out. It hurt so bad. Then I realized that I don't want to die and I came around,'" Safonova said.

Democracy protesters clash with the police in Hong Kong

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Pro-democracy protesters clashed with police in Hong Kong early Thursday for the first time in more than two weeks as pressure grows on demonstrators to abandon more than a month and a half of street occupations.

The skirmishes lasted about four hours in the bustling Mong Kok neighborhood, the most turbulent of three protest sites that have snarled swaths of the city.

Police said they attempted to arrest a man who was shining his cellphone light into officers' eyes, and demonstrators responded by surging at police lines. The two sides ended up in a tense standoff,

with several protesters taunting police.

About 2:30 a.m., protesters charged again at police lines and flooded into a street. Officers responded with pepper spray and pushed the crowd back into their camp. Police said they arrested three people in the confrontations, which left at least one protester bleeding from the head.

Several demonstrators arrived in Mong Kok wearing masks with the grinning likeness of Guy Fawkes, a co-conspirator in a plot to blow up the English Parliament building in 1605. Young protesters worldwide have taken up wearing the mask at demonstrations since it was featured in the 2006 film "V for Vendetta."



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FAITH

the prayer warrior

Ebola hits home for Liberian faith healer

By ROBYN DIXON
Los Angeles Times

I could be headaches, infertility, sorrow or bad luck. In New Kru Town, where the afflictions of the poor are plenty, there was always work for a prayer warrior like Dorothy Sawyer.

People with nightmares would come to the faith healer, convinced that they were under attack as they slept. Once, a girl named Gladys took to running around the neighborhood naked and had to be saved. Some people were sick, and needed healing. Others had just lost their way in life.

Sawyer would hold their hands, hard, to make the prayer powerful.

"Sometimes I pray loud," she said. "Sometimes I pray louder."

Sawyer, an abandoned wife with six children — the child of an abandoned wife with five children — lives in a one-room tin house with holes in the walls in this crowded neighborhood of the Liberian capital.

It's a place where lines of colorful laundry flap like extravagant birds, stray dogs nose around for scraps and people dress up in lace for church on Sundays.

Sawyer is a prayer warrior for a church called Conqueror's Tabernacle. Save for the miracles that she trades in, life could be disheartening for a woman with nothing but a dog-eared Bible and even less money than she used to have.

Sawyer sees it as a biblical test. But a prayer warrior fears nothing — not ridicule, not spiritual darkness — not witches waiting to steal the souls of chil-

dren or weak old folk.

Then Ebola came to New Kru Town, and it attacked Conqueror's Tabernacle.

Becoming a warrior

Here in Monrovia, where charismatic Pentecostal pastors jostle for worshippers, church and prayer course through life like blood, and prayer warriors are as important as doctors. For churchgoers here, an ailment that's stubborn is often seen as the business of a prayer warrior, who claims to heal through the "laying of hands."

But Ebola can be contracted just by touching someone very ill. The virus has claimed many pastors, prayer warriors and traditional healers.

"Only God knows where we are heading to now," Sawyer said.

On a rain-streaked afternoon, she sits in a red-and-white floral dress

on a stoop outside her house holding her old Bible. A cheap metal pendant inscribed "Love" is stuck in the damp sand nearby. Tim, 25, her oldest son, is there; he is the

rock in her life since her husband deserted her eight years ago. Her other five children, ages 11 and up, sit giggling or wander around.

When Sawyer was about 10, she said, she saw a flash of light — she points to the spot, just over there — and a white man with long hair appeared out of nowhere, his back turned. Then he disappeared in another flash.

"I believe that was the angel of God that I saw," she said, eyes wary, half expecting ridicule. From then on, she had "spiritual fits" and had to drop out of school. She had premonitions. She'd warn people not to take a particular road on a particular day. "People didn't listen. There would be consequences."

But other people saw her as a miracle worker. No longer just a struggling single mother, she was somebody. "They said, 'She's got the discernment.'"

Four years ago she became a prayer warrior at Conqueror's Tabernacle, the creation of her neighbor Pastor Varney Garpou.

'This Ebola thing'

Ebola first skipped across the border into Liberia in March, then died down after a few cases. Everyone relaxed. But by July it had swept back in, killing staff members at New Kru Town's Redemption Hospital before tearing through the neighborhood.

As lethal as war, it spread across Monrovia, killing nearly 2,500 people by Oct. 17. The cases in West Africa will surpass 10,000 within weeks.

Many people struggle to reconcile their religious faith with the plague. Some churchgoers say it's a sign of the Last Days.

Some say it's a punishment, or something Satan brought. Sawyer was sure it was a spiritual sickness, not just a physical sickness.

Although she had heard the government warnings not to touch people with Ebola, "I wasn't afraid because I believed God was with me."

It was unthinkable that the illness people call "this Ebola thing" could be stronger than a prayer warrior.

Even so, Pastor Garpou was wary. He told his wife, Willet, a nurse, to slow down on her treatment of neighbors. By August, people were coming knocking three or four times a day looking for medicine.

"Pastor said, 'Be careful with this Ebola thing.' He warned her, 'Be careful.' She said, 'You people think everything now is this Ebola thing,'" Sawyer said.

That month, the virus came to a run-down tenant house next door to the Garpous. First to go was a mother of three, who died in a wheelbarrow on the way to treatment. Four people in the house died, including a tailor and his child. The tailor's wife was next to sicken. Willet Garpou couldn't just sit in her house and let the woman die, so she treated her with injections for a week. Two weeks later, Willet got sick too.

Sawyer didn't hesitate when Willet, her "church mother," called her to say she'd had a revelation in a dream that people wanted to kill her and the pastor. Sawyer clutched her hands and prayed with Willet, morning and night. She helped her dress, and she touched her feet. But Willet died at home, and within days, Sawyer was called again, this time to pray for and heal the pastor.

Despite her strongest prayers, he died at home, crying that he didn't want to go and leave his vision of Conqueror's Tabernacle.

"I believe maybe it's God's will," said Sawyer, puzzling over why so many died and wondering why that healing prayer didn't save a good man like Pastor Garpou. "Maybe some people never had the faith that they could make it and some people lose hope."

'It was the worst sickness'

A short time after, Sawyer felt a searing heat in her belly. She fasted and prayed for three days, but it didn't help. Eventually, she went to an Ebola treatment unit.

Soon her test confirmed a result that would terrify most people. It was Ebola. Sawyer said she felt no fear or doubt. She was determined that with plenty of prayer, she was going to survive. The first thing she asked for at the treatment center wasn't water or medicine. She wanted a Bible. She lay in her bed, temperature soaring, sweating and trembling, feeling as if her belly and her back were on fire.

"It was the worst sickness I ever had," she remembered. "One night I felt a hand patting me on my shoulder."

A nurse checking she was still alive? "I don't know who touched me. I think it was the spirit of God." The next morning, she left her bed. She recovered, as swiftly as she had gotten ill.

A few days later, she was back outside one of the Ebola treatment units. She squinted against the sun. Nearby stood a young man looking anxious, drenched in sweat. It was her oldest son, Tim.

He had Ebola. He went for treatment, and for weeks, she heard nothing. She prayed and prayed for her son's survival. And her prayer was powerful.

Tim survived, and came home.

Dorothy Sawyer is a Liberian prayer warrior, and her most treasured possession is her dog-eared Bible. The faith healer was called to help victims of Ebola and it wasn't long before she got sick too, but she survived.

ROBYN DIXON/Los Angeles Times



WORLD

Meaningful selfie, 1 year after Philippine storm

By TERESA CEROJANO
The Associated Press

TANAUAN, Philippines — The Saavedras waited for death as Typhoon Haiyan tore their roof, knocked down walls and unleashed torrents of seawater below them. All they could do was pray, say "I love you" one last time and take a picture.

David Saavedra raised his cellphone in the chaos to snap a group selfie to record their final moments. He took it for his eldest sister in Manila, hoping to show that at the end, her family was together — even serene.

That explains his smile, incongruous against the wind-ripped scene and the terror-stricken faces of his younger sister, Veronica, and their mother.

The picture was intended to go on top of David's coffin, but instead it is a reminder of the family's immense luck, and of the obligation they feel to help neighbors who weren't nearly as fortunate when the massive typhoon hit on Nov. 8, 2013.

More than 7,300 people died or were missing when Haiyan slammed the central Philippines, including the Saavedras' laid-back farming town of Tanauan, as one of the most ferocious typhoons ever to hit land. The monster storm displaced about 4 million people and turned a large swath of densely populated regions into a wasteland.

"I said 'I love you' to my parents because I felt at that time that it was our last day alive," Veronica Saavedra said in an interview in the family's old house, now partially cleaned up and repaired. "I was so afraid I was trembling and I said, 'Lord, if this is my last day, forgive me for everything.'"

The 21-year-old college student said that even while praying she was terrified by the loud hissing



DAVID SAAVEDRA/AP

David Saavedra, left, smiles as he takes a group selfie with his younger sister, Veronica, center, and their mother at their house during the height of Typhoon Haiyan in Tanauan, central Philippines, on Nov. 8, 2013.

of the wind, and memories of the rising water hounded her sleep for months.

The Saavedras — David, Veronica, their brother JR, their mother and their father — all survived. Three other siblings were in Manila and one was in Kuwait.

Many other families had much different fates. In a nearby village, all but two members of a 45-member clan are buried in a mass grave.

When the rain and wind finally subsided hours after the storm hit, David, 26, an accountant, left the cramped hallway on the second floor of the wood-and-concrete home where he and his family were huddled. He saw bodies floating on the street outside. The next-door neighbors were drenched and shuddering on the second floor of their house, its walls gone. One paraplegic neighbor was clinging to a post near the roof of his house. Others were cry-

ing, many in shock.

At the same time, David and Veronica's sister Sarah Songalia was in anguish in Manila, where she owns an accounting firm. There was no news from her hometown for three days, with telephone and power lines down and roads blocked by debris.

"I said, 'Lord, just keep them all alive. I will do everything so our town can rise again,'" said Songalia, the eldest of the family's seven children.

With no news coming their way, Songalia and her officemates put up a Facebook community page in hopes that people from her hometown could send updates. They and other volunteers gathered relief supplies, turning Songalia's office in the heart of the Makati financial district into a relief operations center.

Her family was able to board a bus and reach Manila five days after the typhoon. They have since relocated closer to Songalia, and have helped her with the relief effort. Only Veronica is still living in their home province of Leyte — she's staying with relatives in Tacloban, the provincial capital — but their parents plan to move back when the father retires in two years.

The nonprofit group Songalia founded, Burublig Para Ha Tanauan, has started projects to help villagers recover, powered by volunteers.

The projects include distributing boats to fishermen who lost their vessels and training women to sew hospital scrubs and school uniforms. Drivers who lost vehicles known as tricycles — actually bicycles with canopied sidecars — have been given replacements.

Residents are organized into cooperatives. They get the equipment they need on an operate-to-own basis, paying back the cost in installments.



ARON FAVILA/AP

David Saavedra takes a group selfie with his family during their family reunion in suburban Makati, south of Manila, Philippines, on Oct. 19.



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STARS AND STRIPES.



FACES

Miranda Lambert makes history at 2014 CMAs

BY MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Miranda Lambert has reached new heights as a female country performer: The fiery singer is the most decorated female artist in the history of the Country Music Association Awards.

Lambert's four wins Wednesday night give the 30-year-old a total of 11 CMA trophies throughout her career, putting her ahead of any other female act. Lambert's fifth consecutive win for female vocalist of the year Wednesday beat a record set by herself, Reba McEntire and Martina McBride.

Lambert also took home album of the year for "Platinum," single of the year for "Automatic" and music event of the year for "We Were Us" with Keith Urban.

"It's really unbelievable," she said backstage. "I felt like this whole night was about really celebrating music."

Lambert lost the night's top award to Luke Bryan, giving the 38-year-old his first CMA. The win for entertainer of the year marked a shift in the genre, which has shunned the party-boy singer who is the leader the contemporary pack of bro-country performers, which includes acts like Florida Georgia Line.

"I have longed and sought after to get one of these in my hands ... To get the respect of the CMA board ... is a ginormous deal," a happy Bryan said backstage. "I am really humbled. I think about the hard work it took to get here. I am so blessed this is from the CMAs and I will never take it for granted."

Bryan beat out George Strait, Blake Shelton and Urban for entertainer of the year, and his successful year included the top-selling album "Crash My Party," a string of hit songs and a top-grossing tour. Bryan also was named last year's entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

Lambert stole the night with fashion choices that were winners, too, and performances. She sang twice onstage, including a country-tinged version of "All About That Bass" with breakthrough singer Meghan Trainor.

Shelton, like his wife, made CMA history: He tied Strait and Vince Gill for five

wins for male vocalist of the year.

"For me and my family, this may be the biggest night of our lives as far as music goes," Shelton said backstage. "I told my wife when we were walking off the stage, I go, 'Miranda, I'm sorry, you only won four CMAs tonight. I mean, I'm really sorry,'" he said as reporters laughed.

The theme of the CMAs seemed to be paired performances: Shelton sang with Ashley Monroe; the Doobie Brothers performed with Lady Antebellum's Hillary Scott, Jennifer Nettles and Hunter Hayes; Strait and Eric Church performed "Cowboys Like Us"; and pop diva Ariana Grande sported a mini top and skirt as she sang the hit "Bang Bang" alongside Little Big Town, who won vocal group of the year.

But the night's best collaboration was Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley. The white-hot duo, hosting the CMAs for a seventh time, earned laugh after laugh for jokes that ranged from Ebola to Taylor

Swift to Underwood's baby bump.

Kacey Musgraves won song of the year for "Follow Your Arrow," which she co-wrote with Brandy Clark, who is openly gay and was among the contenders for new artist of the year.

CMA award winners

Song of the Year: Kacey Musgraves, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally, "Follow Your Arrow"

Female Vocalist of the Year: Miranda Lambert

New Artist of the Year: Brett Eldridge

Vocal Duo of the Year: Florida Georgia Line

Music Video of the Year: Dierks Bentley, "Drunk On A Plane"

Music Event of the Year: Keith Urban featuring Miranda Lambert, "We Were Us"

Musician of the Year: Mac McAnally



Luke Bryan accepted the award for entertainer of the year.

"I have longed and sought after to get one of these in my hands ... To get the respect of the CMA board ... is a ginormous deal."



Blake Shelton performed at the awards — and was a winner, too. Shelton tied George Strait and Vince Gill for five wins for male vocalist of the year.



'1989' exceeds expectations

Taylor Swift's "1989" album racked up sales of 1.287 million copies during its first week of release, spending widespread music industry speculation that the million-plus retail sales week had become a relic of glory days long past.

"Industry experts predicted 1989 would sell 650k first week," the 24-year-old pop star tweeted Tuesday while on a promotional visit to Tokyo, referencing some of the earliest projections for her album's first week out. "You went and bought 1.287 million albums."

Just how big is that? "1989" sold more copies than last week's 70 biggest-selling albums combined. (More than 1.287 million copies were purchased, but Billboard does not count the copies of the album sold through a Microsoft promotional tie-in that made the album available for 99 cents to people who bought a new app. Billboard's policy is that albums must be sold for \$3.99 or more to count toward their official sales total and chart position.)

Swift is now the only artist with three albums that have sold more than a million copies in a single week. Before "Red" did so two years ago, her 2010 album "Speak Now" sold 1.047 million copies during its inaugural week.

AC/DC drummer accused

Drummer Phil Rudd of Australian rock band AC/DC whose hits include "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap" was accused Thursday of trying to arrange two killings as well as possession of drugs.

He appeared briefly at the Tauranga District Court in his adopted home of New Zealand and was charged with attempting to procure murder, which carries a maximum prison term of 10 years.

Rudd, 60, was released on bail. The Bay of Plenty Times newspaper reported that the Australian-born Rudd was accused of trying to hire a hit man to carry out the two killings. Justice raided Rudd's home Thursday morning, according to the paper, and held him in custody until his court appearance. A judge suppressed the names of the intended victims and the would-be hit man, the newspaper said.

Other news

■ Rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges that he and comedian Micah "Katt" Williams stole a photographer's camera outside a Beverly Hills, Calif., film and TV studio. Knight appeared in court to enter his not guilty plea and was immediately taken into custody on \$500,000 bail, said Jane Robison, a Los Angeles County district attorney's office spokeswoman. Williams, who had been scheduled to appear but did not, and Knight were ordered to return to court Dec. 24, Robison said.

■ In July 1944, Orson Welles wrapped up one of his wartime radio broadcasts with a brief, emotional reading of one of the country's favorite authors, John Steinbeck. The piece, "With Your Wings," is a story about a black pilot that Steinbeck wrote for Welles' program, and it seemed to disappear almost as soon as it was aired. Andrew F. Gulli, managing editor of quarterly The Strand Magazine, came upon the transcript recently at the University of Texas at Austin. He features it in The Strand's holiday issue, out Friday.

From wire reports

Miranda Lambert holds the awards she won at the 48th annual Country Music Association Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Wednesday. "It's really unbelievable," Lambert said backstage.

PHOTOS BY INVISION/AP

EUROPE

History: 'When 1989 came around, it was a feeling of, 'Is this really over?'

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We're going to be the first generation of soldiers that will get to 20 years without fighting a war other than the Cold War," Hertling told his buddy at the time. "The Soviets are dead. The Cold War is over. There's no one to fight. Peace is going to break out the world over."

When the Berlin Wall collapsed 25 years ago Sunday, such sentiments were held far and wide as a wave of jubilation swept Germany and the rest of Europe. There was even hope that a new, peaceful world order would emerge. But such optimism proved short-lived.

Months later, Hertling and other U.S. troops were gearing up for Operation Desert Storm, America's first war with Iraq that would become a prelude to more fighting to come. After that, Yugoslavia broke apart, unleashing a wave of bloodshed in the Balkans and an intervention in 1995 by tens of thousands of U.S. and NATO troops. Then came the war in Afghanistan and another war in Iraq.

Still, in the 25 years since the fall of the Wall, few feared a return to Cold War-style confrontation with Russia. That all changed this year when Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and gave support to pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

If a return to Cold War-caliber tension still seems a stretch, the chill between Moscow and the West harkens to an earlier time, not unlike the years leading up to the Wall's collapse.

Peace in Europe can no longer be taken for granted, U.S. and NATO military officials now argue, as the West pushes ahead with plans to establish new "staging bases" across eastern Europe as part of a plan to counter potential Russian aggression.

"We have changed our focus and EUCOM is part of that," Dan Fitzpatrick, the U.S. European Command historian, told Stars and Stripes. "There's a reason why we are here in Europe and now you are seeing it, with Russia, with ISIL (the Islamic State group) to the south right on NATO's border. We aren't here to protect Germany any longer, we are here to protect the interests of the United States."

But in the relaxed aftermath following the collapse of the Wall, which anticipated the disintegration of the Soviet Union two years later, the military faced an identity crisis in Europe.

"We were basically looking for a mission," said Fitzpatrick.

The military's downsizing in Europe was sharp and steady — from about 310,000 personnel at the time of the Wall's collapse to roughly 80,000 today. Less than a year ago, that downward trajectory seemed likely to continue as the Pentagon struggled to explain to a skeptical American audience why U.S. troops were still stationed in a rich and secure Europe.

Demands from Congress that the U.S. cut back deeper in Europe grew louder and more frequent. Now, however, such calls out of Congress appear to have muted in the face of an increasingly unpredictable Russia led by Vladimir Putin.

Preparing for the worst

During the Cold War, many of the U.S. troops in Europe were positioned at strategic spots along the fault lines of eastern and western Germany, guarding against a massive Soviet land invasion.

They were prepared for the worst. "If you were a fire-support officer, you had 13 seconds once you had contact. That's



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

As a saxophonist blows a tune, visitors to the Eastside Gallery along the Berlin Wall get their photos taken in front of the graffiti. The section of the Wall that makes up the gallery is the longest stretch of the Wall still standing.

it. These were die-in-place positions," said Fitzpatrick, himself a former fire-support officer.

If anything, such fears were understated. Historians now say that top-secret Warsaw Pact battle plans in the 1970s and early '80s called for massive nuclear strikes against multiple cities in West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark, as well as tactical nuclear attacks on concentrations of opposing forces. France and Britain, both nuclear armed nations, were to be spared, but Soviet forces — 420,000-strong in East Germany and Czechoslovakia — would still sweep everything before them and reach the Rhine within seven to eight days, according to the plans made public after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

During the height of the Cold War, the U.S. military presence in Europe was not only enormous, it was a front-line deterrent in the most powerful sense. In those days, tactical nuclear weapons could be attached to field artillery.

It took time for the U.S. to build up its presence in Europe, which dwindled after World War II. In the early 1950s, with the Cold War already at a fever pitch, the force levels on the Continent were less than 100,000, on a par with the force of today.

What prompted the surge of troops into Europe was the Korean War and lessons learned from North Korea's lightning invasion into the south. Something like that could happen in Europe, too, officials feared at the time.

"That really changed American policy," said Fitzpatrick. "In Europe, you had 4.5 million Russians in occupied areas, and we had nothing here to stop them."

From June 1950 to 1953, the U.S. force in Europe tripled in size, with roughly 300,000 personnel positioned across the continent, accompanied by all the machines of war —

fighter planes, tanks, artillery and nuclear weapons.

"We stayed for 50 years and when 1989 came around, it was a feeling of, 'Is this really over?'" Fitzpatrick said.

Hertling, who would go on to lead combat troops in Iraq and would eventually take command of U.S. Army Europe, first arrived in Germany in 1975 as a second lieutenant fresh out of West Point. In those days, families had to keep at least a half tank of gas in their cars in case war broke out. Noncombatant Evacuation Operation packets, which included all the travel essentials you might need in an emergency, were kept in the glove compartment.

When Hertling returned as a major in 1988, there was a sense that change was coming. It was the early days of glasnost, a Soviet policy that eased censorship and restrictions on political activity.

But U.S. troops still conducted border patrols. Family evacuation plans were still part of force-protection measures in place. And Moscow remained the singular focus for war planners.

"We still had the Russian threat, and we were doing war plans against the Soviets," Hertling said.

"But by the time I left that tour, we went through the Wall coming down, the peace process, the beginning of planning drawdowns," said Hertling, who retired in 2012 as a lieutenant general and now works as an executive in the health care industry.

Force of today

Today, the military presence is just a shell of its former self, but it's still lethal.

In the 1980s the U.S. military maintained up to 350,000 troops in Europe, most in West Germany. Now, there are only two Army brigades. Today, the military's role in Europe is as much about logistics as it is firepower. There are combatant command

headquarters, training grounds to partner with allies and air bases like Ramstein Air Base in Germany that have as much to do with projecting power into the Middle East and Africa as they do deterring aggression in Europe.

A year ago, the U.S. military's main argument for a forward presence in Europe was geography — the Continent was an essential platform to achieve strategic aims in the broader region. That argument often seemed to fall on deaf ears.

Hertling, during his time as USAREUR commander from 2011 to 2012, often found himself at odds with lawmakers eager that get troops to their home district.

During one meeting with a Colorado congressman, Hertling explained why his soldiers needed to be forward positioned in Europe. There, Hertling said, the troops conducted a range of missions, including gathering military intelligence, training allies in eastern Europe, sending forces into Afghanistan and supporting missions in Africa.

"He (the congressman) was saying that they can move to his district instead and he wasn't kidding around," said Hertling, who declined to publicly name the lawmaker. "I asked him: 'Mr. Congressman, why is it so important to move these people to your state and not do their mission in Europe?'"

"He said: 'I'd rather have them buy pizza in Colorado than schnitzel in Germany.' He told me I live in the Cold War, thinking Russia is still coming across that border, and that I just don't understand."

It's hard to predict the future size and shape of the military presence in Europe. Will the current crisis with Russia reinforce the need for a forward presence or will a looming budget crunch force more cuts?

Hertling said he hopes the current crisis serves as a reminder that the next conflict can't be predicted. But he isn't optimistic.

"The sequestration train continues to move down the track," he said. "We have a military that is increasingly stretched, less well-resourced and a budget plan based on drawdown in Afghanistan, but not new requirements. We're headed for some really tough times."

If there is a lesson of the Cold War, it is the value of maintaining the military alliances that grew out of it, Hertling said.

"When we next go to war, no matter what kind of war it is or where it is, we are never going to do it alone. So you can't just flip the switch when war sounds. You have to have that relationship," he said. "The forward stationing of these forces, working with other countries to build alliances stronger than a single country needs to be a continuing process and can't just be when something bad happens like Russia crossing into Ukraine's border."

vandiver.john@stripes.com

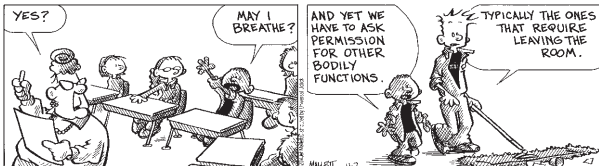
The fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 12, 1989.

Stars and Stripes

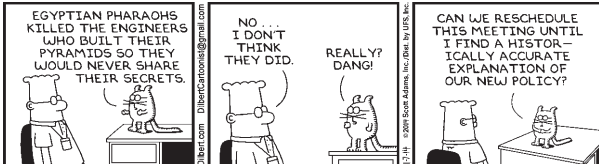


National temperature extremes
Wed., 93, Lake Forest, Calif. and
Pasqual Valley, Calif.
Wed., 12, Alamosa, Colo.

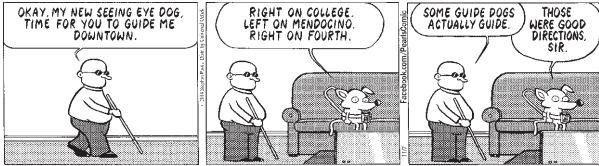
Frazz



Dilbert



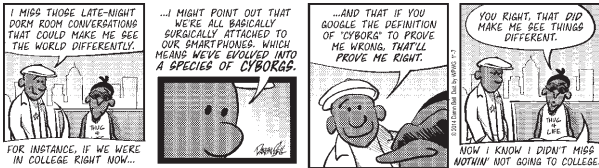
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



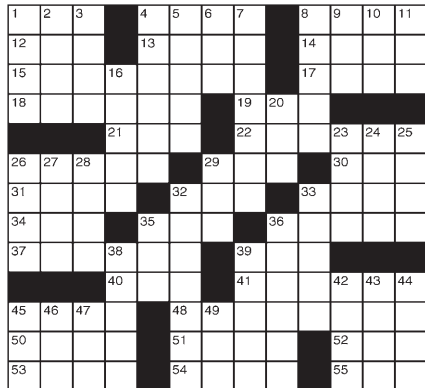
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Homer's outcry
- 4 Pleads
- 8 Office part-timer
- 12 Anger
- 13 Nanking nanny
- 14 Session with a shrink
- 15 Long-popular board game
- 17 Loosen
- 18 Stephen King classic
- 19 Edge
- 21 Club —
- 22 Talk incoherently
- 26 Missile shelters
- 29 Jewel
- 30 Tin Man's need
- 31 Frost
- 32 Historic boy king
- 33 Innates
- 34 S dispenser
- 35 Sauté
- 36 Social level
- 37 Partake diletant-ishly
- 39 WWW bookmark
- 40 Mauna —
- 41 Take to the air-port
- 45 New Zealander
- 48 Spat
- 50 Ms. Brockovich
- 51 Partly mine
- 52 Charged particle
- 53 Yin counterpart
- 54 Scruff

55 2012 movie bear

DOWN

- 2 Caviar provider
- 7 Greek vowel
- 8 Mary's follower
- 29 6-Down's companion
- 32 Only crime defined in the Constitution
- 33 Biblical spy
- 35 "Alice" waitress
- 36 Fold
- 38 Showy jewelry
- 39 Commander
- 42 Last writes?
- 43 Penguin carrier, maybe
- 44 Ward (off)
- 45 Crucial
- 46 Glass of NPR
- 47 Victory
- 49 Sine — non

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-7

CRYPTOQUIP

JQTK UQT TKACSDQ MRWZ
RASURUTZ QSD MXUUCTZ
MWTJ, HTXHCT ZTICRWZ
"DQRETDHTRWT DQRETD
MTTW!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSIC PLAYED WHEN A PENNILESS MAN IS ABOUT TO MARRY A RICH WOMAN: "HERE COMES THE BREAD."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals P

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croyline, Managing Editor for Content
 croyline.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

EUROPE STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Chief
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.365.15.9310 cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)583.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)202.761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

Steps the Republicans must take now

By GEORGE F. WILL

UNlike the dog that chased the car until, to its consternation, he caught it, Republicans know what to do with what they have caught. Having completed their capture of control of the legislative branch, they should start with the following six measures concerning practical governance and constitutional equilibrium:

1) Abolish the Consumer Financial Protection Board. This creature of the labyrinthine Dodd-Frank law violates John Locke's dictum: "The legislative cannot transfer the power of making laws to any other hands. ... The power of the legislative [is] only to make laws and not to make legislators." The CFPB is empowered to "declare," with no legislative guidance or institutional inhibitions, that certain business practices are "abusive." It also embodies progressivism's authoritarianism by being, unlike any entity Congress has created since 1789, unethered from all oversight mechanisms. Its funding, "determined by the director," comes from the Federal Reserve.

2) Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board. This expression of the progressive mind is an artifact of the Affordable Care Act and may be the most anti-constitutional measure ever enacted. It certainly violates the first words of the first section of the first article of the Constitution: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress and the IPAB's purported function is to achieve the ACA's purpose of cost containment by reducing Medicare spending. When the IPAB's 15 presidential appointees make what the ACA calls a "legislative propos-

al" limiting reimbursements to doctors, this proposal automatically becomes law unless Congress passes a similar measure cutting Medicare spending. Under this constitutional travesty, an executive branch agency makes laws unless the legislative branch enacts alternative means of achieving the executive agency's aim. The ACA stipulates that no measure for the abolition of the IPAB can be introduced before 2017 or after Feb. 1, 2017, and must be enacted by Aug. 15 of that year. So, one Congress presumed to bind all subsequent Congresses in order to achieve progressivism's consistent aim — abolishing limited government by emancipating presidents from restraint by the separation of powers. This impertinence by the 111th Congress requires a firm rebuke by the 114th.

3) Repeal the ACA's tax on medical devices. This \$29 billion blow to an industry that provides more than 400,000 jobs is levied not on firms' profits but on gross revenues, and comes on top of the federal (the developed world's highest) corporate income tax, plus state and local taxes. Enough Democrats support repeal that a presidential veto might be overridden.

4) Improve energy, economic and environmental conditions by authorizing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline would reduce the risk of spills by reducing the transportation of oil in railroad tankers.

5) Mandate completion of the nuclear waste repository in Nevada's Yucca Mountain. The signature achievement of Harry Reid's waning career has been blocking this project, on which approximately \$15 billion has been spent. So, rather than nuclear waste being safely stored in the mountain's 40 miles of tunnels 1,000 feet

underground atop 1,000 feet of rock, more than 160 million Americans live within 75 miles of one or more of the 121 locations where 70,000 tons of waste are stored.

6) Pass the Regulations from the Executive in Name of Scrutiny, or REINS, Act. It would require that any regulation with at least a \$100 million annual impact on the economy — there are approximately 200 of them in the pipeline — must be approved without amendments by joint resolution of Congress and signed by the president. "In effect," writes the Hudson Institute's Christopher DeMuth, "major agency rules would become legislative proposals with fast-track privileges." By requiring legislative complicity in especially heavy federal burdens, REINS is an ingredient in the recipe for resuscitating Congress, which has been far too eager to cede legislative responsibilities to the executive branch.

Such measures may be too granular to satisfy the grandiose aspirations of those conservatives who, sharing progressives' impatience with our constitutional architecture, aspire to have their way completely while yielding just one branch of government. But if, as is likely, the result of Congress doing these and similar things is a bizzard of presidential vetoes, even that would be constructive. The 2016 presidential election would follow a two-year demonstration of how reactionary progressivism is in opposing changes to the nation's trajectory. Congressional actions provoking executive rejections would frame the argument about progressivism. And as Margaret Thatcher advised, first you win the argument, then you win the vote.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Death in a philosophically responsible way

By JOHN HARDWIG

Brittany Maynard's ordeal is now over. On Nov. 1, the 29-year old with terminal brain cancer, who became the face of a movement to allow dying patients to choose when to end their lives, used the pills provided by her Oregon physician and died. Compassion and Justice, the nonprofit Maynard wrote, reported that "she died as she intended — peacefully in her bedroom, in the arms of her loved ones." I would trade quite a few more days (especially days spent with searing pain or doped into semi-consciousness in an effort to manage symptoms) for the ability to say my goodbyes and die like that. We all know by now that the best death is not the one that can be postponed the longest.

The most striking thing about Maynard was the way she transformed herself so quickly, with an essay, from just another person into a warrior with a mission. But this is in keeping with the way many terminally ill people behave. They often spend their remaining days trying to improve the lot of those who will suffer similar illnesses in the future. Some, like Maynard, campaign for policy changes. Some offer themselves as subjects for medical experimentation, knowing full well that any findings will not help them. Some participate in support groups for those with similar medical prognoses.

I didn't launch this campaign because I wanted attention. In fact, it's hard for me to process it all. I did this because I want to see a world where everyone has access to

death with dignity, as I have had. My journey is easier because of this choice," Maynard wrote on Oct. 9. In that way, she gave meaning to her final days in a way that a series of purely self-centered decisions never could have.

Discussions about physician-assisted suicide — and Maynard's death — almost inevitably focus on what's good for the terminally ill patient. But not every patient takes such a self-centered approach. A self-centered life, focused on personal gratification, aggrandizement and comfort, may or may not be good for the one living it. But a self-centered death is not. If all we care about is ourselves, everything we care about will perish in our death. That is unbearable.

Those who see themselves as connected to something bigger and more enduring than themselves, however, can die in a context of meaning and purpose. For some, religion provides this connection. But religion doesn't always work. Many cannot summon the necessary theological convictions, especially on demand. And some kinds of religion fail at the end of life. A Christian oncologist told me that she deals with many patients who die filled with rage against God.

For others, a deeply felt affinity with the natural world, or commitment to some ongoing endeavor such as art, science or ef-



Maynard

forts on behalf of disadvantaged kids. This approach clearly spoke to Maynard, who wrote that she worried she'd soon be unable to recognize her husband, her family moved with her to Oregon so she could die there.

For those who live a life of connection, when illness threatens to sever the connections, it is time to go. But the survivors go on, burdened or blessed with the memory of the death of their loved one. For them, the death is never the end of the story. And a death in the family — especially a long, drawn-out dying process — can be much worse for the survivors than it was for the deceased. This is part of the reason Maynard gave for opting against hospice care: "I probably would have suffered in hospice care for weeks or even months. And my family would have had to watch that. I did not want this nightmare scenario for my family." She was thinking outside herself.

The evaluation of Maynard's death, and of physician-assisted suicide more generally, must not be exclusively focused on the dying person. That would be to revert to the self-centered, unconnected perspective. Those of us with deep attachments to family and loved ones are all charged with carefully weighing what each of our alternatives probably would mean for our loved ones, with helping them to understand whatever choice we make, and with preparing them, as best we can, to go on to live happy, fulfilled lives without us.

John Hardwig is a retired professor of philosophy at the University of Tennessee. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Space travel has many costs The (Hammond, La.) Daily Star

Americans are spoiled when it comes to space travel. We beat the Soviet Union (now Russia) to the moon. We've sent unmanned craft to Mars. We've sent craft toward Jupiter. Our satellites roam the night sky. So when there's an accident involving a rocket, such as the one involving an unmanned Orbital Sciences rocket carrying supplies to the International Space Station that exploded just above the launching pad, or the "anomaly" experienced by the Virgin Galactic test vehicle SpaceShipTwo that crashed in the Mojave Desert last week, the question comes up as to how such a thing can happen.

Virgin Atlantic chief Richard Branson expressed shock at the crash but vowed to push on.

"Space is hard — but worth it. We will persevere and move forward together," Branson said.

Admirable, to be sure, but it is really achievable in the long run? When tragedy struck the American space program (NASA) with the fire aboard the Apollo spacecraft that killed three astronauts, NASA and the space program rebounded. When the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on liftoff or when the Shuttle Columbia blew up upon return, the space program rebounded.

But will those who can afford the \$250,000 ticket for three exhilarating minutes want to take the chance? Time will tell.

Is there truly a place for space travel for private companies taking civilians up into the outer reaches of space? Given the exploratory nature of humans, it's a question that at some point, those companies and the American people may not know how to answer.

China spending more on subs The (Palo, Tenn.) Post-Intelligencer

While Uncle Sam's attention is being diverted by crises in the Middle East, Asian nations are ramping up their naval forces to face the growing colossus of the seas: China.

The entire region, a major portion of the Pacific's surface, is involved. Vietnam has nearly doubled its naval spending, Japan is preparing for the largest defense budget in its history and the Philippines is trying to create a respectable naval force. The Associated Press reports. India has become the biggest arms importer in the world. South Korea is back on track.

China wants to become the dominant power of the Pacific, the AP said, replacing the United States. Over the past decade, it has quadrupled its annual military budget, much of which goes to its navy.

It has a long way to go. America's \$665 billion military spending is three times that of China and more than the next eight countries combined. But China is spending nearly as much as all 24 other nations in East and South Asia put together.

Much of China's naval spending goes for submarines, a fleet that is expected to match U.S. numbers by 2020. "Submarines are seen as a potential for an underdog to cope with a large adversary," one military researcher explained. "They can move silently and deny aerial or maritime control."

A Chinese diplomat said the country's growing military effort is "transparent" and "serves national defense exclusively."



MARCO DUARTE/AP

A demonstrator with her mouth taped shut and the number 43 painted on her face marches in Mexico City on Wednesday in protest of the disappearance of 43 college students following attacks on Sept. 26 in the state of Guerrero.

Can all this armament lead to a stalemate, proving once again the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction? We can hope so, even as we recognize that guns are designed to be shot.

Much on Indonesia's plate The New York Times

Secretary of State John Kerry's presence last month at the inauguration of President Joko Widodo of Indonesia was another sign of the Obama administration's greater involvement in Asia. It was also an investment in Indonesia's relationship with Indonesia, whose importance as an emerging democracy and the largest economy in Southeast Asia is sometimes overlooked.

Indonesia is the largest Muslim-majority country in the world, and its election, like Tunisia's last month, is evidence that Muslim nations can evolve peacefully under democratic systems. Some 135 million Indonesians cast ballots July 22 as Widodo defeated Prabowo Subianto, a former general and son-in-law of the deposed dictator Suharto. The victory was even more remarkable because Widodo... was the first president not to come from the political elite or the ranks of former generals.

The challenges facing Indonesia are considerable. Despite the country's membership in the Group of 20 major economies, more than 100 million Indonesians live on \$2 a day or less. ... Indonesia needs to reduce corruption, build roads and bridges, create jobs, expand education and tackle a \$20 billion-plus fuel subsidy bill that benefits the wealthy above all and is depleting the budget. It needs to end the palm oil production that wiped out one-fifth of forested areas between 1990 and 2010 and turned the country into a top emitter of greenhouse gases.

Widodo has little experience with economic or foreign policy, and security issues as well, so he will have to learn quickly. The U.S. is counting on Indonesia to be a partner in its efforts to balance an increasingly aggressive China and to help manage disputes between China and other nations that lay claim to the South China Sea.

The Obama administration is also pressing Indonesia to redouble efforts to prevent the recruitment of new Muslim extremists to the Islamic State, crack down on terrorist financing and share intelligence with neighbors. Indonesia has had success over the last decade in keeping extremism in check through arrests and prosecutions, and it can be an example to others. ...

With Widodo as president, the stage is now set for a long-term battle between reformers promising better governance for all people and an authoritarian, elitist old guard. The country will be better served if Widodo can stay true to his vision.

Rule of law lacking in Mexico (San Antonio) Express-News

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto's strides in opening up his country to foreign investment will avail Mexico not enough unless investors have confidence in the rule of law there.

Each day seems to bring news of some criminal depredation. Forty-three teaching students in Iguala are still missing and unaccounted for after a September incident. And there are strong indications that the police, in collusion with drug cartels, are responsible for that.

It appears that the narcos control so much of Iguala's government that they and the police are virtually indistinguishable.

Students from a radical teaching college in Iguala were in the habit of "borrowing" buses to help stage obstructive protests. Police and others fired on "borrowed" buses. The students fled and 43 were later rounded up by police and allegedly turned over to the local cartel, Guerreros Unidos. That happened Sept. 26. The students have not been heard of since.

Members of the real police force are among those arrested for this abduction. A mass grave was found by farmers calling themselves community police forces. The grave contained human remains, just like another found in May in Iguala, but not of the 43 students. ...

The death toll of Mexico's war on cartels and the cartels' war on each other — an estimated 60,000 dead between 2006 and 2012 — demonstrates that cutting cartel heads off simply means they grow new ones. And each capture seems to spark a deadly clash for turf.

The U.S. can best help by tackling the drug additions here that line cartel pockets. It can take note also that there are 6,700 licensed arms dealers in this country along the U.S./Mexico border, while there is only one licensed dealer in Mexico.

Ultimately, however, such corruption and the inadequacy of its civil institutions are Mexico's problems to solve.

Views of Vatican are evolving Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When Pope Francis said last week that evolution and the Big Bang theory did not conflict with Catholic teaching, it really wasn't news. This pope just has a talent for framing long-held beliefs in a fresh way, as he has done before in taking up the cause of the poor. Instead, this news was more a timely reminder.

Despite that unfortunate business with Galileo 400 years ago over his alleged heretical beliefs on the movement of planets, anybody who has been paying attention lately understands that the church has

not been at war with scientific knowledge. Other popes have expressed the same ideas, especially on evolution.

Pope Francis, though, has a way of making headlines. In his remarks before the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, he may have raised the eyebrows of everyone from cardinals on down. "When we read about creation in Genesis, we run the risk of imagining God was a magician, with a magic wand able to do everything. But that is not so," the pope said. "He created human beings and let them develop according to the internal laws that he gave to each one, so they would reach their fulfillment."

In other words, the creator God had a process — "a supreme principle" as he called it. "The Big Bang, which today we hold to be the origin of the world, does not contradict the intervention of the divine creator but, rather, requires it," Pope Francis said. "Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of creation, because evolution requires the creation of beings that evolve."

This is a thought that has also occurred to many believers in other branches of Christianity who have wrestled to reconcile their beliefs with the abundant evidence of evolution, the notion of the natural world. What if the Almighty used evolution (and the Big Bang) as his means of creation?

Once again Pope Francis' intellect has clarified an issue, which in the U.S. at least has brought shadows, not light. The pope's words are also a reminder that those who regard evolution as hostile to Christian belief are actually a minority among Christians.

Verizon made big coding error Los Angeles Times

Verizon Wireless, the country's most popular mobile phone operator, has been quietly inserting into its customers' Web browsing sessions an identifier unique to each device they use, making it possible for websites and advertising networks to build profiles of individual customers based on their browsing habits. What's worse, even if Verizon's subscribers happen to find out about this and ask the company to stop, it won't.

Rather than inviting the rest of the Internet to violate its customers' privacy, Verizon should find a more respectful way to generate advertising dollars.

Ordinarily, Web-browsing apps reveal little about the people using them. The typical website relies on cookies to identify users by planting a unique identifier called a cookie on each visitor's computer or smartphone, storing information about what the visitor does while on that site. So do online advertising networks, which can use the cookies to track what individuals do on all the sites they carry ads for. If you're a Google prospect, you can set your browser to erase cookies or prevent them from being stored on your machine.

Verizon Wireless, however, has flipped the process on its head. It inserts a unique code into the information that each device carries to the server, but it doesn't use that code as it browses the Web. The device then uses the code to sell demographic information (but not names or personal profiles) about that customer to advertisers so they can make their pitches more relevant to that person. Meanwhile, those sites and advertisers are able to identify and use the code to build a profile of a user even if he or she is blocking cookies.

Verizon says it changes the codes regularly to guard against permanent profiles, but that's not much of a concession to its customers' privacy rights. To stop the tracking, users would have to get a glitch about them, its customers have to opt out of a program they didn't sign up for in the first place. And even opting out doesn't stop the company from inserting the identifier into their Web browsing. ...

If Verizon doesn't see the problem with its secret device ID, the Federal Trade Commission should enlighten it.

OLYMPICS/SPORTS BRIEFS

Winter Olympics won't be moved

Official says onus will be on FIFA to avoid conflict if World Cup shifted from summer

By CHRIS LINES
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — The 2022 Winter Olympics will remain in the traditional February time slot and will not be moved to make way for a rescheduled World Cup in Qatar, the head of the world's national Olympic committees said Thursday.

FIFA is currently considering moving the World Cup to avoid the summer heat in Qatar, including a possible shift to January-February — a period that would clash with the Olympics.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees, said the Winter Games arrangements are already locked in and the onus is on the World Cup to avoid clashing with the Olympics rather than the other way around.

Sheikh Ahmad, a powerful IOC member who also heads Asia's Olympic association, said the World Cup timing is an issue for FIFA and not the International Olympic Committee.

"The Olympics should be maintained," Sheikh Ahmad said. "The IOC will maintain their time because we already have been committed, the organizers have been organized, the broadcasting, the marketing partners."

The IOC has repeatedly said that it has assurances from FIFA President Sepp Blatter that the two events will not clash.

FIFA said Monday it was targeting two options for moving the World Cup — January-February and November-December. The January-February option is favored by FIFA's confederations. European soccer clubs prefer April-May.

Sheikh Ahmad said he is confident that FIFA will ensure that the World Cup and Olympics do not overlap.

"They are the best two events in the world," he told a small group of reporters on the sidelines of ANOC meetings in Bangkok. "(FIFA) will analyze this and they will try to come up with the best solution how they will make

it without touching each other, achieving the interest of each."

"Somebody is talking about January and February before the games, somebody speaking about October and November and others asking to maintain in August. Let the commission do their homework, but I am 100 percent confident they will never be at the same time."

Beijing and the Kazakhstan city of Almaty are the only two remaining bidders for 2022 after several cities dropped out of the running. They will give formal presentations to the ANOC assembly on Friday.

The opposition to the World Cup being hosted in Qatar's summer heat had also been regarded as diminishing the chances of a Middle East country hosting the Summer Games in 2024 or beyond.

Sheikh Ahmad, who is from Kuwait, said that was an issue that will be addressed as part of the IOC's "Olympic Agenda 2020" reforms. The reforms will be voted on at a special IOC assembly in Monaco next month.

The ANOC chief said there needs to be more flexibility over the timing of the Summer Olympics to broaden the list of candidate cities. He cited Dubai and Doha as examples of Middle East cities that could host the 2024 Games.

"(Dubai) is capable. They don't have to do anything, only the sporting facility," Sheikh Ahmad said. "They have the airport, the hotel, the accommodation, the name, the tourism. We have capable cities in our region which can bid for the Games whenever they want."

"This is something we have to discuss in the 2020 agenda. We have to respect the south zone of the world. When we did it in Sydney, we did it in October. We have to put two periods of time: one achieves the north and one achieves the south."

He said Doha, which bid for the 2016 and 2020 Olympics but failed to make the list of finalists both times, could be successful next time.



SEAN RYAN, NFL UK/AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, right, attends a practice session in London on Thursday. The Cowboys will play the Jacksonville Jaguars at Wembley Stadium on Sunday.

Briefly

Romo practices in London

The Associated Press

LONDON — Tony Romo practiced Thursday for the first time since arriving in London, and the Dallas Cowboys' quarterback says his injured back is getting better.

Romo missed last Sunday's loss to the Arizona Cardinals because of his third back injury in 18 months. He skipped Wednesday's practice following the team's arrival Tuesday.

"We'll keep taking it day by day and just see what happens," Romo said. "It's improving each day and I think we did some things today that were positive. Just keep going in that direction, I think we'll have a good chance [of playing Sunday]."

The Cowboys (6-3) play the Jacksonville Jaguars (1-8) at Wembley Stadium in the last of three regular-season games in London this year. They have lost their last two games, however, with backup Brandon Weeden playing last weekend.

Romo has fractures in two small bones in his back. The injury is unrelated to a herniated disk last year or to offseason surgery to remove a cyst earlier in 2013.

The quarterback said Thursday he was still a little sore, but called it "normal stuff" and said his back loosened up during practice.

"If you're always waiting to feel great to play in every game you play in, you're only going to play a couple of games a year," he said. "The best players are the guys who are able to play at the same level with stuff going on."

Even though Romo practiced, Dallas coach Jason Garrett is still not sure who will start.

"We would never put a player in harm's way. Obviously it's a very physical sport that we play," Garrett said. "He (Romo) has to be functional. He has to be able to protect himself."

Bucs giving McCown another chance

TAMPA, Fla. — Hoping to spark one of the NFL's least productive offenses, the Tampa Bay

Buccaneers are turning back to Josh McCown at quarterback.

The 12th-year pro started the first three games of the season, but has missed the past five after injuring the thumb on his throwing hand.

McCown's return Sunday against Atlanta comes with the Bucs (1-7) riding a four-game losing streak. He was hurt during the opening half of a 56-14 tie to the Falcons on Sept. 18.

Glennon confirmed the change on his radio show. The Bucs are ranked 31st in total offense and are 26th in scoring.

In other NFL news:

■ Bills rookie receiver Sammy Watkins will be ready to play against Kansas City this weekend despite hurting his groin in practice, a person familiar with the diagnosis told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because coach Doug Marrone declined to provide details of the injury after Watkins was hurt in practice Wednesday.

"He could play or he can be out for 2-3 weeks, who knows," Marrone said. "I have no information except that he didn't finish practice."

Marlins begin talks with Stanton

MIAMI — Contract talks have started between Giancarlo Stanton and the Miami Marlins, who are prepared to offer a multiyear deal that would be a big departure for the historically thrifty franchise.

President of baseball operations Mike Hill declined to say whether the Marlins have made an offer, but they've begun discussions with agent Joel Wolfe regarding an agreement with the All-Star right fielder.

"Negotiations are ongoing," Hill said Wednesday. "We're hopeful we'll be able to make him a Marlin for many years to come."

Even if Stanton rejects the Marlins' offer, he's expected to play for Miami next year, and doesn't become a free agent until after the 2016 season.

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NHL/NBA

NHL roundup

Brassard's goal lifts Rangers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers are still having trouble closing out games. They took sole, however, in shaking off a late tying goal and getting a win in overtime.

Derick Brassard scored a power-play goal 1:50 into overtime, after Detroit tied it in the closing seconds, to give the Rangers their fifth straight victory over the Red Wings, 4-3 on Wednesday night.

Lee Stempniak gave the Rangers a 3-2 lead with 7:50 left in the third period, but Detroit got even for the second time when Tomas Tatar scored on a power play with 7.7 seconds left and goalie Jonas Gustavsson off for an extra skater.

"You never want it to happen that late in the game," said Rangers forward Rick Nash, who scored the opening goal. "But you have to give credit to our guys. We regrouped and came out pretty good in overtime."

Pavel Datsyuk tripped Martin St. Louis 46 seconds into overtime, and Brassard took advantage when he slammed in the rebound of Dan Girardi's shot.

"When they scored the tying goal, we just stayed positive," Brassard said. "We talked to each other on the bench and we got it done."

Stempniak was in line for the winner when he finished a 2-on-1 rush by scoring off a pass from Dominic Moore.

St. Louis added a goal for the Rangers, who dropped their previous two games in shutouts. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 25 shots after getting a rare game off to a May day night.

"I felt like we had a little more energy. They played last night and we tried to take advantage of that," Lundqvist said.

The Rangers improved to 5-0-2 in one-goal games, the only losses being the consecutive shootout defeats on the home stand.

Canadiens 2, Sabres 1 (SO): P.A. Parenteau scored in regulation and added the shootout winner in visiting Montreal's victory over Buffalo.

Dustin Tokarski made 31 saves to help the Canadiens end a three-game losing streak.

Parenteau opened the scoring 19 seconds into the third period with the Canadiens' first goal in 107 minutes, 1 second. In the third period of the shootout, Parenteau beat Michal Neuvirth with a wrist shot.

Islanders 3, Ducks 2 (OT): John Tavares scored his second goal on a power play 2:18 into overtime as visiting New York ended a three-game losing streak.

Kyle Okposo also scored and Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves for the Islanders, who blew an early two-goal lead in their third stop on a five-game trip.

NHL scoreboards

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Montreal	14	9	4	1	19	33 41
Tampa Bay	12	8	3	1	17	42 32
Detroit	13	6	3	4	16	33 31
Boston	14	8	6	0	16	38 33
Ottawa	11	6	3	2	14	31 27
Toronto	12	6	5	1	13	34 31
Florida	10	4	2	4	12	25 20
Buffalo	14	3	9	2	8	17 45

Metropolitan Division

Pittsburgh	11	8	2	1	17	45	23
N.Y. Islanders	12	7	5	0	14	39	41
New Jersey	12	6	4	2	14	33	37
N.Y. Rangers	12	5	6	1	11	34	38
Philadelphia	12	5	5	2	12	37	39
Washington	12	4	5	3	11	38	37
Carolina	11	3	2	6	8	25	37
Columbus	12	4	8	0	8	30	41

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	12	8	3	1	17	30	23
Nashville	12	7	3	2	16	30	25
Winnipeg	13	7	5	1	15	25	27
Chicago	13	7	5	1	15	34	23
Minnesota	11	7	4	0	14	36	22
Dallas	12	4	4	4	12	35	42

Pacific Division

Anaheim	14	10	1	3	21	38	27
Vancouver	13	9	4	0	18	43	36
Edmonton	14	7	6	1	14	39	41
Los Angeles	13	7	4	2	16	31	27
San Jose	14	7	4	3	18	41	32
Arizona	12	5	6	1	11	31	44
Edmonton	12	4	7	1	9	30	43

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games
 Montreal 2, Buffalo 1-30
 N.Y. Islanders 3, Anaheim 2-OT

Thursday's games
 Edmonton at Boston
 Florida at Philadelphia
 Minnesota at Ottawa
 Calgary at Tampa Bay
 New Jersey at St. Louis
 Pittsburgh at Winnipeg
 Nashville at Dallas
 Toronto at Colorado
 N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles
 Vancouver at San Jose

Friday's games
 Edmonton at Buffalo
 Columbus at Carolina
 New York at Detroit
 Washington at Chicago
 Arizona at Anaheim

Wednesday
Canadiens 2, Sabres 1 (SO)

Montreal	0	0	1	0-2
Buffalo	0	0	1	0-1

Third period—Montreal, Parenteau 3 (Subban, Markov), 19; 2, Buffalo, Stafford 2 (Myers, Ennis), 3:14 (pp).

Shootout—Montreal 2 (Galtcheyuk, G. Deshaenis, N. Parenteau), 6; Buffalo 1 (Gionta, G. Moulson, N. Girgensons), 0.

Shots on goal—Montreal 29, Buffalo 10.

Opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1; Buffalo 1 of 1.

Goals—Montreal, Tokarski 2-1-0 (32 shots-31 saves); Buffalo, Neuvirth 2-3-1 (32-31).

—A-17,837 (19,070). T=2-49.

Rangers 4, Red Wings 3 (OT)

Detroit	0	2	1	0-3
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	1	3-1

First period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 10 (Brassard, Hunwick), 6:36 (pp).

Second period—2, N.Y. Rangers, St. Louis 4 (Hunwick, Kostka), 6:39; 2, Detroit, Kindl 1 (Sheahan, Franzén), 12:02 (pp), 4, Detroit, Cleary 3 (O'Miller), 12:15.

Third period—5, N.Y. Rangers, Stempniak 1 (O'Miller), 10:16-7-32.

Goals—Montreal, Tokarski 2-1-0 (32 shots-31 saves); Buffalo, Neuvirth 2-3-1 (32-31).

Over time—7, N.Y. Rangers, Brassard 5 (Girardi, St. Louis), 1:50 (pp).

Shots on goal—Detroit 8-7-13-0-28.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 2 of 3; Buffalo 1 of 1.

Goals—Detroit, Gustavsson 1-1-1 (30 shots-26 saves), N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 6-1-1 (29-23).

—A-18,006 (18,006). T=2-43.

Islanders 3, Ducks 2 (OT)

N.Y. Islanders	1	1	0	3-3
Anaheim	0	2	0	0-2

First period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 5 (de Haan, Hunwick), 3:38.

Second period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Okposo 5 (Nelson), 10 (pp), 3, Anaheim, Beleskey 6 (Kestler, Vatanen), 9:15 (pp), 4, Anaheim, Elm 1 (Nelson), 12:15.

Over time—5, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 6 (Vishnovsky, Okposo), 2:18 (pp).

Shots on goal—N.Y. Islanders 12-10-11-3-36. Anaheim 4-16-13-1-34.

Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Halak 4-4-0 (34 shots-31 saves); Anaheim, Halak 4-4-0 (34-31) (36-33).

—A-16,448 (17,174). T=2-46.



Ben Margot/AP

Clippers Spencer Hawes, left, and Blake Griffin scramble for the ball with Harrison Barnes, top right, Shaun Livingston, on floor, left, and an unidentified Warrior during the second half on Wednesday.

NBA roundup

Warriors romp way to 4-0

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Golden State Warriors co-owner Joe Lacob smiled as he approached Stephen Curry in the locker room, shook his star guard's hand and asked a question that needed no reply.

"That's what we envisioned, right?" Lacob said.

Indeed, it was. In their most impressive performance yet, the Warriors routed the Los Angeles Clippers 121-104 on Wednesday night to remain unbeaten.

Curry had 28 points and seven assists, and Draymond Green scored a career-high 24 points to help with eight rebounds and five assists as the Warriors (4-0) showed off the swagger of a confident and complete contender.

They built a 20-point lead in the second quarter and held off the Clippers the rest of the way, getting a small slice of revenge after losing a heated first-round playoff series to Los Angeles last season.

Jamal Crawford scored 24 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 17 points and 13 rebounds for a Clippers team that is off to a shaky start. Los Angeles (3-2) opened with a string of close games before getting whipped by the Warriors.

"I saw a beautiful game from one team," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "They are a better team right now and by a lot."

Golden State extended its best start in 20 years under new coach Steve Kerr, who took over for the fired Mark Jackson. The last time the Warriors began 4-0 was the 1994-95 season when they won the first round of the playoffs.

As far as early November games go, both teams had more than enough incentive to gear up for this one.

There had been several fierce incidents on and off the court between these rising Pacific Division rivals the past two seasons. That was evident again when

Clippers star Blake Griffin never offered — or received — a handshake from Warriors players before the opening tip.

"It was very intense. Right from the beginning, our guys were ready," said Kerr, the first coach in franchise history to start his career 4-0.

But there was little drama this time.

Golden State dominated from start to finish, outshooting the Clippers 58 percent to 46 percent and outrebounding them 39-30. The Warriors also had 29 assists in Kerr's ball-movement based system.

Spurs 14, Hawks 92: Tim Duncan had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and San Antonio held on for its 17th straight win at home over Atlanta.

The Spurs had a season-high 25 assists for a balanced scoring effort that they needed to fend off the Hawks' furious rally in the final quarter.

Bulls 95, Bucks 86: At Milwaukee, Derrick Rose returned from his latest injury and helped Chicago to another victory.

Taj Gibson scored 23 points, Pau Gasol added 22 and Rose had 13 points and seven assists in 32 minutes for the Bulls, who have beaten the Bucks nine straight times in Milwaukee.

Grizzlies 102, Suns 91: At Phoenix, Mike Conley had 24 points and 11 assists, and Memphis used a strong defensive effort in the third quarter to remain unbeaten.

The Grizzlies forced 10 turnovers in the third and turned an 11-point deficit in the second period into a five-point lead going into the fourth. Conley and fellow guard Courtney Lee combined to score 17 of Memphis' 30 third-quarter points.

Pistons 98, Knicks 95: Greg Monroe had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and host Detroit held off New York for its first win of the season.

Raptors 110, Celtics 107: Kyle Lowry scored 35 points and had a key steal in the closing minute to lead Toronto over host Boston.

With the score tied at 105, Lowry stripped rookie Marcus Smart and fed DeMar DeRozan for a fast-break layup with 33 seconds left. He was fouled on the play and hit the free throw.

Hornets 96, Heat 89: Al Jefferson scored a season-high 28 points and added 10 rebounds, and host Charlotte snapped a 16-game, regular-season losing streak against Miami.

Charlotte was winless against the Heat in the LeBron James era, including getting swept in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs last season.

Timberwolves 96, Nets 91: Nikola Pekovic converted a tie-breaking three-point play with 48 seconds left, and visiting Minnesota scored the final nine points of the game to beat Brooklyn.

Wizards 96, Pacers 94 (OT): John Wall had seven of his 31 points in overtime, and host Washington won its fourth straight.

The Wizards blew a 12-point, second-half lead and survived Roy Hibbert's three-point attempt in the closing seconds to move three games above .500, a mark they didn't reach until March 1 last season.

Magic 91, 76ers 89: At Philadelphia, Tobias Harris made a jumper at the buzzer to give Orlando its first win of the season.

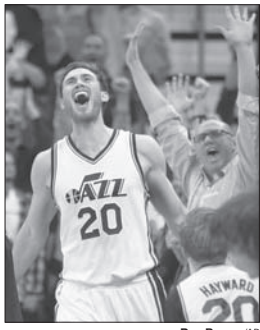
Nik Vucevic scored 17 points and Channing Frye had 13 points and 11 rebounds to help Orlando snap a season-opening, four-game losing streak.

It helped playing the Sixers. The Sixers are 0-5 for the first time since the 2001-02 season.

Kings 131, Nuggets 109: DeMarcus Cousins had 30 points and 11 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 29 and host Sacramento beat Denver to extend its best start in more than a decade.

NBA

Jazz top Cavs on Hayward's jumper at buzzer



Rick Bowmer/AP

Utah's Gordon Hayward celebrates after hitting the winning shot against Cleveland late in the fourth quarter on Wednesday.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	2	2	.500	0.0
Boston	2	2	.500	0.0
New York	2	2	.500	0.0
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	0.0
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	4	1	.800	0.0
Miami	2	3	.400	2.0
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2.0
Atlanta	1	4	.200	3.0
Orlando	1	4	.200	3.0
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	4	1	.800	0.0
Milwaukee	2	3	.400	2.0
Cleveland	1	4	.200	3.0
Indiana	1	4	.200	3.0

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	5	0	1.000	0.0
Dallas	3	2	.600	1.0
San Antonio	3	2	.600	1.0
New Orleans	2	3	.400	2.0
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	2	3	.400	0.0
Minnesota	2	3	.400	0.0
Utah	1	4	.200	1.0
Denver	1	4	.200	1.0
Oklahoma City	1	4	.200	1.0
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	4	1	1.000	0.0
Phoenix	3	2	.600	1.0
L.A. Clippers	3	2	.600	1.0
L.A. Lakers	0	5	.000	4.0

Tuesday's games				
Milwaukee 87, Indiana 81				
Washington 98, New York 83				
Toronto 100, Oklahoma City 88				
Houston 108, Miami 99				
New Orleans 100, Charlotte 91				
Chicago 98, Orlando 90				
Portland 101, Cleveland 82				
Phoenix 112, L.A. Lakers 106				
Orlando 91, Philadelphia 89				
Charlotte 85, Miami 80				
Minnesota 88, Brooklyn 91				
Toronto 110, Boston 107				
Memphis 105, Indiana 94				
Chicago 95, Milwaukee 86				
Washington 105, Indiana 94				
San Antonio 94, Atlanta 92				
Golden State 121, L.A. Clippers 104				
Utah 102, Cleveland 100				
Sacramento 131, Denver 109				
San Antonio 103, Clippers 104				

Friday's games				
Chicago at Philadelphia				
Charlotte at Orlando				
Atlanta at Charlotte				
Washington at Toronto				
Brooklyn at Indiana				
Indiana at Boston				
New York at Brooklyn				
Memphis at Oklahoma City				
Portland at Utah				
Dallas at Denver				
Saturday's games				
Portland at L.A. Clippers				
Washington at Atlanta				
Minnesota at Miami				
Golden State at Atlanta				
Golden State at Houston				
San Antonio at Chicago				
New Orleans at San Antonio				
Memphis at Milwaukee				

By MATTHEW COLES

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Gordon Hayward made a step-back jumper at the buzzer, one-upping LeBron James and boosting the Utah Jazz to a 102-100 victory over the struggling Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Hayward prides himself on his self-control, but after hitting the game-winning jumper, he couldn't help himself. He let out all his emotion in a celebratory frenzy.

"I've never really done that before," Hayward said. "It was just one of those moments."

Hayward, who had 21 points, broke free of James to catch an inbound pass, faked a move to the basket and then stepped back on the right wing and swished a 21-foot jump shot as the horn sounded.

The forward was mobbed by his Jazz teammates in a scene reminiscent of a college tournament game.

"How can you not show emotion after a finish like that? For us to win the game after being in control the whole game and

then see it slipping away, it was pretty special," Hayward said. "Just exhilaration!"

Derrick Favors had 21 points and 10 rebounds but the Jazz had to overcome a last-minute effort by James, who scored 31 points as Cleveland fell to 1-3.

With the Cavs down four points with 17 seconds remaining,

James made a three-point shot from the corner off a deflected pass while falling away out of bounds. He then made all three free throws after faking Favors into a foul on a three-point attempt to tie the game at 100 with 3.4 seconds left.

Kyrie Irving had 34 points and Kevin Love added 14 for the Cavaliers, who lost for the second time in two nights on.

The Jazz led the entire way — by as many as 16 points — until the fourth quarter, when Irving scored 10 points in a 14-6

run that gave the Cavaliers an 89-86 edge with 4:43 remaining.

The Jazz went back in front and led 93-89 when Trevor Booker beat the shot clock with a three-point. The next play down, Booker was whistled for a flagrant-1 foul on Love. The two exchanged words and each got a technical, ratcheting up the intensity in the already tight contest.

The Jazz led 96-90 after Favors made a free throw, but the Cavs found timeouts on consecutive possessions while Irving and Tristan Thompson scored. Trey Burke converted a pair of free throws for a 98-94 lead with 17 seconds to play.

The Cavs allowed the Jazz to shoot 51 percent. After losing the previous night 101-82 to Portland, Cleveland made it much closer but couldn't overcome Hayward's heroics.

"Rome wasn't built in a day and we understand that," James said. "You have to continue to work the process. You have to lose as competitors, but we felt like tonight was improved. We improved from the second half we're capable of playing some good basketball."

Wednesday

Raptors 110, Celtics 107

	W	L	Pct	GB
TORONTO	4	1	.800	0.0
DEKORAN	3	2	.600	1.0
LOWRY	2	3	.400	2.0
WILLIAMS	2	3	.400	2.0
STIEMMA	2	3	.400	2.0
HAIGS	1	4	.200	3.0
BOSTON	1	4	.200	3.0
JOHNSON	1	4	.200	3.0
BRADLEY	1	4	.200	3.0
BASE	1	4	.200	3.0
TURNER	1	4	.200	3.0
ZELLER	1	4	.200	3.0
THORNTON	1	4	.200	3.0

Wizards 96, Pacers 94 (OT)

	W	L	Pct	GB
INDIANA	5	1	.833	0.0
WIZARDS	4	2	.667	1.0
PAVERS	3	3	.500	2.0
SCOTT	2	4	.333	3.0
ROBERTS	2	4	.333	3.0
SMITH	1	5	.167	4.0
WATSON	1	5	.167	4.0
WATSON	1	5	.167	4.0
WATSON	1	5	.167	4.0
WATSON	1	5	.167	4.0

Jazz 102, Cavaliers 100

	W	L	Pct	GB
JAZZ	4	1	.800	0.0
CAVALIERS	3	2	.600	1.0
LEBRON	2	3	.400	2.0
IRVING	2	3	.400	2.0
WATSON	2	3	.400	2.0
WATSON	2	3	.400	2.0
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Jazz 102, Cavaliers 100

3-7	2-2	8, Gortat 4-10	6-7	14, Wall 11-21	8-9
31,	Temple 6-14	0-0	16, Gooden 1-7	0-0	31
Porter 1-5	0-0	3, Rice Jr. 1-3	0-0	2, Seraphin	
3-5	0-0	6, Miller 1-2	0-0	2, Humphries 0-1	
0-0	0-0	Tokola 24-01	21	22	06

NFL

In Pittsburgh, everyone a target

Roethlisberger sharing offensive load among multitude of Steelers weapons

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A quarterback at the top of his game. A wide receiver that's the most consistent in the NFL. A competitive group of veterans and youngsters behind him fighting for a piece of the action, however small.

Mix those ingredients together — particularly that last part — and the seeds of discord are there.

Stunningly, they're not. Not even close. Maybe it's because Ben Roethlisberger has turned the Pittsburgh Steelers into the league's happiest democracy.

Big or small. Young or old. Fast or slow. Roethlisberger doesn't care. Get open and he's going to find you.

And while Antonio Brown — who leads the NFL in catches and yards receiving and is fourth in touchdowns — is on a record-breaking roll, Roethlisberger is doing an admirable job of keeping everyone else involved.

The Steelers (6-3) are one of three teams who have four players with at least 30 receptions and one of two that have six players with two or more receiving touchdowns heading into Sunday's game against the New York Jets.

"I'm never one who's going to throw it to somebody intentionally, just to get him a ball," Roethlisberger said. "But when you've got so many weapons, it's fun to see everyone kind of have their hands in the pie."

Roethlisberger isn't just being politically correct. From Brown

'It's fun to go out there and know whenever you have a route, you have a chance.'

Michael Palmer
Steelers tight end

to little-used tight ends Matt Spaeth and Michael Palmer, the Steelers offense is functioning like a high-tempo democracy.

"Nobody is getting jealous, nobody is getting upset about not getting reps," reserve wide receiver Dariusz Heyward-Bey said. "Everybody understands your number could be called at any time, so just stay on top of your game."

While Brown has run off 25 straight games of at least five receptions for 50 yards, a mark that is the best in league history, the playing time for the guys behind him changes on a regular basis.

One week tight end Heath Miller is an afterthought, the next he's going over 100 yards receiving for just the third time in his decade-long career. Rookie wide receiver Martavis Bryant spent the first six games on the inactive list. Now he has five touchdowns during Pittsburgh's three-game winning streak.

Palmer is the third-string tight end who is typically brought in around the goal line or in short-yardage situations. He's only



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has thrown 12 touchdowns to six different players over the past two weeks, turning the Pittsburgh offense into a high-functioning democracy.

caught one pass all year, but it provided the winning points in a 17-9 victory over Jacksonville last month.

"It's fun to go out there and know whenever you have a route, you have a chance," Palmer said. "You're not just running a back-side route or a clear route to open up other people."

Even if that's sometimes the idea. Roethlisberger has thrown 12 touchdowns to six different players over the past two weeks. Some of them have been dazzling catch-and-returns.

Some of them have been deft lobbs. Some of them have come with Roethlisberger searching for a second or third or fourth option behind an offensive line that has turned the pocket into a tranquil oasis in a sea of chaos.

For years one of the NFL's most-hit quarterbacks, Roethlisberger

has been sacked just three times in 86 drop-backs while dominating the Colts and Ravens. He's on pace to be dropped for the fewest times in his career when he's played a full season despite being on pace for 600 attempts.

"We know that he's capable of doing that every week, we've just got to give him time," Miller said. "The receivers are getting open and making plays for him."

No matter how much or how frequently they're used. The Steelers signed Heyward-Bey in the offseason hoping the former first-round pick could use his still-scorching speed to become the deep threat they've been looking for since Mike Wallace bolted for Miami more than a year ago.

It hasn't quite worked out that way. Heyward-Bey made the roster based mostly on his ability to block on special teams, but he's

proven reliable when needed.

Pacing third-and-9 from the Pittsburgh 2 nursing an 11-point lead against Houston two weeks ago, Heyward-Bey lined up in the slot then hauled in a dart from Roethlisberger for a 17-yard gain. His third catch of the season helped the Steelers flip the field on their way to a 30-23 victory.

Heyward-Bey is just one of five skill players who have not been on the other end of one of Roethlisberger's 22 scoring passes. Asked jokingly if he's ready for his turn to come up and Heyward-Bey's smile disappeared.

"I don't care," he said. "I think we're very deep. We're a special group. We've got six guys that can dress every week, I've been on teams that dress three receivers. We understand that we're unique. We've got to show it on every Sunday."

Seahawks seeking consistency in final 8 games

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Halfway through the regular season, the Seattle Seahawks have slipped more than expected for a Super Bowl championship team.

The Seahawks (5-3) have brought an added layer of drama, complete with injuries sidelining key starters, rumblings of locker room divides and the stunning trade of wide receiver Percy Harvin to the New York Jets.

And while the second half of the schedule is difficult, there's optimism based on the past couple of weeks that all the chaos is in the past.

"I think we're making progress," coach Pete Carroll said. "We've survived some really hard games and we've won some really hard games. We're battle tested and we're ready to go. The fact that we can make this turn with young guys prepared to play and with some guys coming back to their health and we will get a second wave of that as well, I'm feeling pretty good

about our chances to go out and win this game this week. This week is really what's a hand and we're going to focus in on that like we always do and then we will just get cranking, see if we can keep going."

Sometimes Russell Wilson and Marshawn Lynch have been part of an unstoppable unit. At other times, Seattle's offense has gone backward. Same goes for the vaunted defense that has struggled with getting a consistent pass rush and creating turnovers, but remains statistically among the NFL elite.

Red-zone efficiency and third downs are concerns — on both sides of the ball.

Last season, Seattle was the best in the league, allowing only 13 touchdowns on 36 red-zone possessions. This season, the Seahawks have already allowed 15 TDs — 65.2 percent of red-zone possessions — to rank 26th in the league.

Conversely, Seattle is scoring touchdowns on its red-zone trips barely 50 percent of the time, with 16 TDs on 31 possessions.

The Seahawks struggled to get off the

field on third downs in their losses to San Diego and Dallas, while also failing to extend their own drives. Only once this season has Seattle converted more than 41 percent of its third-down attempts.

Seattle ranks 22nd in third-down conversions and 16th in third-down conversions allowed.

"I think we'll continue to emphasize third-down work continue to emphasize what's going on in the red zone. We've not been as good as we've been and we need to get better in those areas on both sides of the ball," Carroll said. "Those are probably the most obvious focuses we're working at as well as getting the football away from our opponents. We see that picking up the ball is bouncing around a lot now but it's going to be more available to us I think as we keep moving forward. But we've got to execute better in the red zone and we've got to get our third down numbers in order."

While the Seahawks may be optimistic with two straight wins, they have left themselves little room for error. They are two

'I think at the end of the day, we're still in position to strike...'

Richard Sherman
Seahawks cornerback

games behind Arizona in the NFC West and while there are two games remaining against the Cardinals, it's the rest of Seattle's schedule that makes the last couple of months so difficult.

While facing Arizona twice could help make up ground, two games against San Francisco, trips to Kansas City and Philadelphia and a home finale against St. Louis make for quite the challenge.

"I think at the end of the day, we're still in position to strike, still in position to get everything that we wanted to get in the preseason done," cornerback Richard Sherman said.

NFL

Double-digit comebacks this season

Week 1
Atlanta down 20-7, beats New Orleans 37-34
Miami down 20-10, beats New England 33-20
Philadelphia down 17-0, beats Jacksonville 34-17
Arizona down 17-6, beats San Diego 18-17

Week 2
Green Bay down 21-3, beats New York Jets 31-24
Chicago down 17-0, beats San Francisco 28-20
Philadelphia down 17-6, beats Indianapolis 30-27 in overtime

Week 3
Philadelphia down 17-7, beats Washington 37-34
Dallas down 21-0, beats St. Louis 34-31

Week 4
Houston down 10-0, beats Buffalo 23-17
San Francisco down 21-10, beats Philadelphia 26-21

Week 5
Cleveland down 28-3, beats Tennessee 29-28
Carolina down 21-7, beats Chicago 31-24
New York Giants down 20-10, beat Atlanta 30-20
Buffalo down 14-0, beats Detroit 17-14
New Orleans down 31-20, beats Tampa Bay 37-31

Week 6
San Francisco down 14-0, beats St. Louis 31-17
Dallas down 10-0, beats Seattle 30-23

Week 7
Pittsburgh down 13-0, beats Houston 30-16
Detroit down 23-10, beats New Orleans 24-23

Week 8
Detroit down 21-0, beats Atlanta 22-21
Week 9
Arizona down 10-0, beats Dallas 28-17
Minnesota down 10-0, beats Washington 29-26

— The Associated Press

Comebacks coming back

Double-digit deficits haven't been a problem this season

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

DENVER
A double-digit deficit in the NFL is no longer the death knell it once was. Viewers don't change the channel and coaches don't change what they're doing, either.

With 23 comebacks from double digits through 134 games so far, the league is on pace this season for 44 come-from-behind wins by teams that trailed by 10 or more points. That would break by one the record set last year, according to STATS.

This never-say-die ability to pile up points in a hurry has led to profound changes in everything from viewing habits to the blueprints coaches draw up every week and the calls they make during the game.

Offensive coordinators don't ditch the game plan when they fall behind — they're throwing, throwing from the start as it is — and defensive coordinators have all but dumped the time-honored prevent defense lest they make it any easier for today's quick-strike offenses to catch up.

So far, every week of the season has featured at least one comeback from double digits, including four on opening weekend and five in Week 5, when Cleveland fell behind Tennessee 28-3 before staging the biggest road comeback in league history to win 29-28.

"No lead is safe this year," Broncos cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said.

The Eagles fell behind by multiple scores in each of their first three games before rallying to win each time.

Last season, a record 18 games featured comebacks of 14 points or more, and, fittingly, Andrew Luck brought Indianapolis back from a 28-point deficit to beat Kansas City 45-44 in the AFC playoffs.

This year, there have been nine such comebacks from 14 or more, including Dallas rallying from 21-zip to top St. Louis and Detroit doing the same to beat Atlanta in London.

Passers are also on pace to set NFL marks in combined passer rating (91.2), completion percentage (63.1) and net passing yards per game (487.8).

It's not just the pro game. Players coming out of college nowadays are accustomed to the sizzling scoreboards that used to be the exception.

It goes even farther back, too.
"Even high schools, spread offenses, kids are throwing the ball, more so than ever in the history of the game," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "And so they get to this level and it gives you an opportunity if you're behind to score points relatively quick. It's exciting. If you're a defensive coordinator, probably not so good. But from an offensive standpoint, yeah, pretty good."

AP Pro Football Writers Dave Campbell and Rob Maaddi contributed along with AP Sports Writers Dave Skretteit and Steve Wine and AP freelancer Mark Ludwiczak.

Buffalo tackle Seantrel Henderson celebrates as he watches a 58-yard, game-winning field goal on Oct. 5 against Detroit.

DUANE BURLISON/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ducks' O-line dealing with more injuries

QB Mariota could have long day facing No. 20 Utes' defense

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — The way Oregon's offensive line was playing a few weeks ago, it looked as if Marcus Mariota might not make it through the season.

In a too-close-for-comfort victory against Washington State and a loss to Arizona, the Ducks allowed 12 sacks. That's no way to treat the Heisman Trophy front-runner.

The return of tackle Jake Fisher from injury the week after the Arizona loss marked a turning point. Since then, the fifth-ranked Ducks (8-1, 5-1 Pac-12) have allowed four sacks total while winning four straight games — all by at least 12 points.

The Ducks head into their game at No. 20 Utah, which leads the nation in sacks, dealing with another offensive line injury, but thinking they are better prepared to deal with it.

"We got our mojo back because we got the whole group together playing again," center Hroniss Grasu said Monday. "It just brings a certain type of confidence as a unit that we needed to have."

Fisher's been good, but it's not quite so simple. Offensive line coach Steve Greatwood said he went back to stressing fundamentals and technique with his linemen in practice. The result was renewed trust in each other and less of the tentative play that had them thinking rather than attacking.

The Ducks passed a major test against Stanford. The Cardinal were averaging more than three sacks per game coming into Saturday and their aggressive and quick front had given the Ducks all kinds of issues the past two seasons, leading to



STEVE DYKES/AP

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota will face an aggressive defense when the Ducks travel to face No. 20 Utah on Saturday. The Utes lead the nation in sacks, and Oregon is dealing with another injury to its offensive line, this time to right tackle Matt Pierson.



Oregon (8-1)
at Utah (6-2)
AFN-Sports
5 a.m. Sunday CET

two straight Stanford wins in the series.

But the Cardinal had just one sack of Mariota during Oregon's 45-16 victory, and tailbacks Royce Freeman and Thomas Tyner averaged 5.9 yards per carry.

The next test could be even more difficult. The Utes lead the nation in sacks at 4.88 per game, led by wide receiver-turned-speed rusher Nate Orchard (12 sacks) and fellow defensive end Hunter Dimick (nine).

The Ducks again could be short-handed up front.

Right tackle Matt Pierson went down

with a left knee injury late in the Stanford game. Oregon doesn't comment publicly about injuries, but it didn't look good for Pierson, the former walk-on tight end.

"When I saw him go down and grab his knee ... I felt so bad for him," Grasu said. Freshman Tyrell Crosby would go to right tackle if Pierson can't play.

At this point, Oregon might be better prepared to deal with the adversity.

"Early when we had Jake out, there was just a lack of trust and guys were trying to do more than they should instead of just trying to do their job," Greatwood said.

Point: Big Ten's top two offenses ready for showdown

FROM BACK PAGE

"I've said since I've been here the coaching that goes on in this league is outstanding. You see different ways people are running the football, different ways they're passing the football," Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio said. "Very innovative, cutting-edge offensive football being played in this conference on a week-to-week basis. I think you see the same thing defensively."

Big Ten teams are averaging 30.2 points per game this season. That still lags behind the Pac-12 and Big 12, but it's an improvement. In 2012, Big Ten teams averaged 27.6 points, the second-worst mark among FBS conferences.

That was Urban Meyer's first season as Ohio State's coach. He's lost only once to a Big Ten opponent since taking over the Buckeyes — in last year's league championship game against Michigan State.

The Spartans (7-1, 4-0) have not lost to a conference opponent since November 2012. Michigan State entered last year's Big Ten title game with one of the nation's stingiest defenses, only to allow a season-high 273 yards rushing in that game. The Spartans won 34-24 when Connor Cook surpassed 300 yards passing for the first time in his career.

"Going into the game last year, Connor Cook didn't really put anything exceptional on film," Buckeyes defensive tackle Mi-



Ohio State (7-1)
at Michigan State (7-1)
AFN-Prime
2 a.m. Sunday CET

chael Bennett said. "Then when he played us, he had a really good game, and I think he's kept improving since then."

Over his last 22 games, Cook has thrown for 39 touchdowns with 11 interceptions. The Spartans have reached the 45-point mark five times this season after doing so only once over the previous two years.

Ohio State (7-1, 4-0) has reached the 50-point mark in five of its last six games — not bad for a team that lost star quarterback Braxton Miller to shoulder surgery before the season even started. J.T. Barrett has completed 65 percent of his passes with 23 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

"I feel like with this offense that Barrett works better in this offense. I feel like he

has a better arm," Michigan State linebacker Taiwan Jones said.

Michigan State and Ohio State will be playing the first November night game in the history of Spartan Stadium, so the weather alone might be enough to slow down the two quarterbacks. That doesn't mean the Spartans and Buckeyes won't be able to move the ball.

Michigan State's Jeremy Langford has surpassed 100 yards rushing in five straight games. Ohio State has rushed for at least 200 yards as a team in six straight.

No matter who wins Saturday's game, the Big Ten isn't guaranteed a spot in the national playoff. A rough nonconference stretch in September — which included Ohio State's home loss to Virginia Tech — knocked the league down a notch in the eyes of many observers.

But when Michigan State and Ohio State take center stage this weekend, it will be a chance for the conference to showcase its best teams of the last couple years — and they look eminently capable of providing an entertaining, well-played matchup.

"Any time you have offenses that are averaging those kind of points and are capable of doing what they have shown in the past, it's going to call for a good game," Cook said. "I think we're looking forward to it. Ohio State's looking forward to it. It's going to be a great atmosphere."



PAUL VERNON/AP

Ohio State running back Ezekiel Elliott runs up field against Illinois last week. The Buckeyes have rushed for at least 200 yards in six straight games.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



EVE EDELHEIT, TAMPA BAY TIMES/MCT

Running back Leonard Fournette, right, is LSU's leading rusher with 657 yards on 131 carries.

LSU eager to test running game against 'Bama front

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU fullback Connor Neighbors figures there may be no greater challenge for the Tigers' power running game than the big, fast defensive front fielded by fourth-ranked Alabama.

Neighbors also confidently predicts that LSU's bludgeoning offensive line and fearsome foursome of running backs can handle it.

"When you're playing Alabama, they're one of the top defenses in the nation, year after year, so they're going to hit hard, but you've just got to hit harder," said Neighbors, an Alabama native whose father, grandfather and brother played for the Crimson Tide.

"It's going to be hard, but it's not something we haven't seen before. They're a great team. They've got big guys. We have big guys," Neighbors continued. "We can talk about big-on-big all day. It just comes down to heart and determination."

When one of the oldest Southeastern Conference rivalries renews in LSU's Death Valley on Saturday night, it'll feature a clash of team strengths whenever LSU has the ball.

The Tigers prefer to keep the ball on the ground as much as possible — rushing 50 or more times in six games this season — and their effectiveness doing so has been building steadily throughout the season. LSU is averaging about 226 yards rushing this season, but has been at its best



Southeastern Conference
Alabama at LSU
AFN-Xtra
2 a.m. Sunday CET

recently, rushing for 567 yards in its past two games, including 264 yards against Mississippi's highly regarded run-stoppers.

Alabama's ability to stop the run is arguably second to none, considering

'If we aren't running the ball, that's not us.'

Elliott Porter
LSU center

ning back to gain 100 yards in a game this season.

Something will have to give, and players on each side sound rather eager to see how this clash of muscle and grit pans out.

"They're definitely a physical group," Alabama defensive end Jonathan Allen said. "We're really going to have to go out there and try to dominate up front, get knock back on the line of scrimmage, and really just clear things up for the linebackers."

After a slow start to his freshman season, 6-foot-1, 230-pound running back Leonard Fournette has emerged as the Tigers' leading rusher, with 657 yards and seven touchdowns on 131 carries, including 293 yards and three TDs during LSU's current three-game winning streak.

"He's got great size. He's a very instinctive runner. He's got really good speed, and he can run with power," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "He's difficult to tackle. A very physical player."

"They have a very physical team, and they're playing physical football right now," Saban added. "There's not a lot of trick 'em to it. You've just got to match and be the same kind of physical team to be able to have a chance."

In addition to Fournette, LSU routinely hands off to Kenny Hilliard (6-0, 232), Darrell Williams (6-0, 230) and Terrence Magee (5-9, 217).

"We have the same identity as an offense no matter which back is in the game," Magee said. "The ability of a fresh running back to wear a defense out at the end helps out a lot."

LSU's starting offensive line runs in height from 6-4 to 6-7 and in weight from 295 to 321.

Center Elliott Porter said the Tigers take pride in "the old-school, LSU, ground-and-pound offense."

"If we aren't running the ball, that's not us," he added.

AP Sports Writer John Zenor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, contributed to this report.

Patterson says TCU just getting started

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — TCU coach Gary Patterson remembers the strange looks he got 10 years ago during a losing season when he talked about his team becoming a BCS buster.

The Horned Frogs ended up doing just that — not once, but twice — under the old system before moving to the Big 12 Conference. Still, the coach isn't surprised he's getting the same reaction now when he says that TCU is "just touching the iceberg" in its third season in a power-five league.

"There's still a lot of work to do. We're not where we want to be depth [wise], we're not where we want to be as a team," Patterson said Tuesday. "I think we have an unbelievable level to grow as a program here at TCU and in the Metroplex. I think we're just touching the iceberg, to be honest with you."

On Saturday night, the No. 6 Horned Frogs (7-1, 4-1 Big 12) play league-leading No. 9 Kansas State (7-1, 5-0). It will be TCU's first home matchup of Top 10 teams, and comes against Patterson's alma mater.

TCU's only loss this season was that wild 61-58 game four weeks ago at Baylor, when the Frogs led by 21 points in the fourth quarter. They rebounded with lopsided victories over Oklahoma State and Texas Tech, scoring 82 points against the Red Raiders, before overcoming a 13-point deficit in the second half Saturday to win 31-30 at West Virginia on Jaden Oberkrom's game-ending 37-yard field goal.

TCU is in contention for the Big 12 title in only its third season after its third consecutive Mountain West Conference championship, and also in the mix for the first four-team College Football Playoff. Patterson was asked if there was any personal satisfaction in returning to the Top 10.

"Oh, I don't know, I haven't



Big 12 Conference
Kansas State at TCU
AFN-Sports
1:30 a.m. Sunday CET

thought about that. I usually don't assess those kinds of things until I get done with the season," he said. "But obviously being able to prove [to] all those people that said that TCU couldn't win in the Big 12."

Based on his postgame meeting with Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen, Patterson thinks West Virginia thinks the same way.

West Virginia was part of six Big East championships in nine seasons, including 2010 and 2011, before moving with TCU into the Big 12.

Before their Mountain West dominance, which included an undefeated 2010 season capped by a Rose Bowl victory over Wisconsin, the Frogs had shared titles in Conference USA and the WAC.

TCU and West Virginia had identical records in their first two Big 12 seasons, going 11-14 overall with a 6-12 mark in conference games. They were both 4-8 last year, when Patterson had only his second losing season — the other was 2004, the same time he was talking about BCS games, and five years before the Frogs made it to the Fiesta Bowl.

The Frogs are still trying to do the same thing they did when playing in other leagues.

"Climb that pyramid," said Patterson, referring to the chart of goals in the team meeting room where "national championship" is at the top. "They don't give you any style points. You either color in purple or don't color in purple. You've got to go play."



TYLER EVERT/AP

TCU's Trevone Boykin, left, runs by West Virginia defender Noble Nwachukwu during the second quarter of last weekend's game in Morgantown, W.Va. TCU won on a last-second field goal.

SPORTS



Hayward sprung

Jazz guard hits game-winner to sink James, Cavs | **Page 27**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



AJ Mast/AP

Michigan State's Mark Dantonio, right, and Ohio State's Urban Meyer are heading for a showdown when the No. 7 Spartans host the No. 13 Buckeyes on Saturday.

Meyer, Dantonio are leading way in evolution of Big Ten

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich.

Solid defense, conservative offense — and punts aplenty.

Fair or not, that's still the stereotype of Big Ten football — but Michigan State and

Ohio State aren't playing along.

The seventh-ranked Spartans host the 13th-ranked Buckeyes this weekend in what may be the conference's most anticipated game all year.

The winner has the inside track to the East Division title, would be the lone Big Ten team without a league loss and will remain very

much in the mix for college football's four-team playoff.

And, stylistically, the way these teams reached this point is noteworthy. Ohio State is fourth in the nation in scoring average at 45.6 points. Michigan State is fifth at 45.5.

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Big Ten offenses: By the numbers

45.6

Ohio St.'s average points per game this season, fourth-best in the nation. Michigan St. is right behind them in fifth at 45.5.

30.2

Average points scored per game by Big Ten teams this season, which still lags behind the Pac-12 (33.7) & Big 12 (33.5).

27.7

Average points per game by Big Ten schools in 2012, the second-worst mark among FBS conferences.

5

Number of times Ohio St. has scored 50 points or more this season. Michigan St. has scored at least 45 points five times.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Don't call it a comeback: Double-digit rallies common | NFL, Page 29